Animal Tales

The only magazine packed with the **most amazing animals!**

THE CUTEST CAT NAP PICS!

(PLUS, FUN FACTS ABOUT THEIR SLEEPING HABITS!)

ZZZZZ

DECODE YOUR DREAMS ABOUT CUTE CREATURES!

THE BEST BUDS ISSUE!

QUIZ: WHAT'S YOUR PUPPY PERSONALITY?

10 *adorable* POSTERS TO HANG IN YOUR ROOM!

PSST: WE'VE GOT INSIDER INFO ON SING 2!

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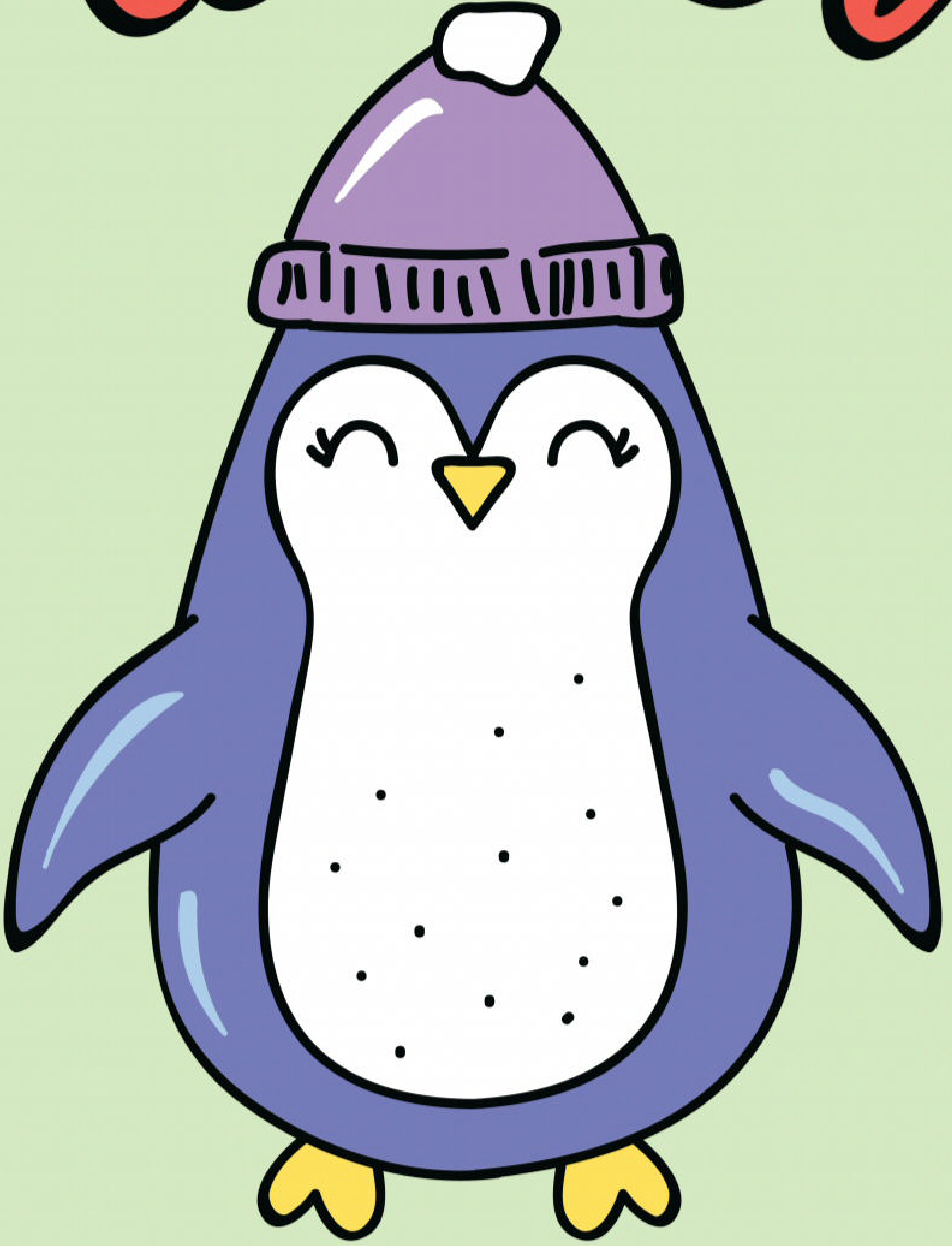

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Animal Tales

HOLA HOLA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

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If you or a parent are on Facebook, be sure to "like" us at facebook.com/animaltalesmag. If you or a parent are on Instagram, follow us @animaltalesmag.

ON THIS PAGE: ELENA SHASHKINA/SHUTTERSTOCK; SONY; NUTKINS J./SHUTTERSTOCK. **NEXT PAGE:** STUART JAMES WORCS/SHUTTERSTOCK; DWI YULIANTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; ILLUSTRATION BY ROBIN BOYER **COVER CREDITS:** MAIN: ANURAK PONGPATIMET/SHUTTERSTOCK; INSETS (CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN): BETON STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINENT/UNIVERSAL; VALENTINA RAZUMOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHUTIMA CHAOCHAIYA/SHUTTERSTOCK

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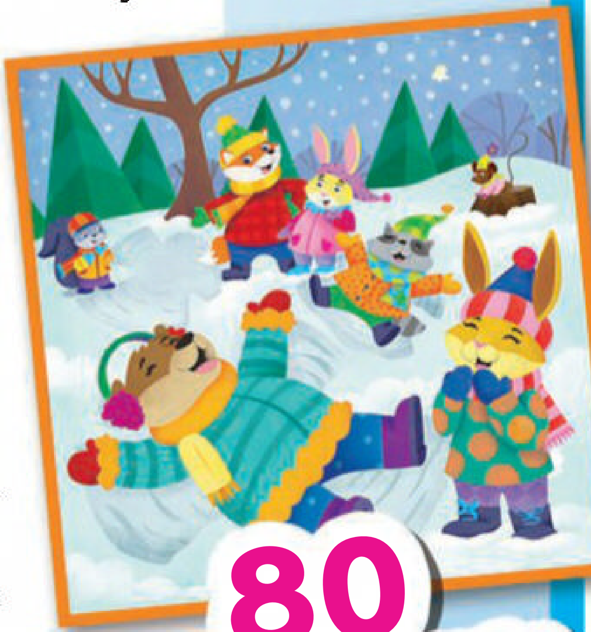

80 Head to our games section to see if you can find the hidden objects in this illustration!

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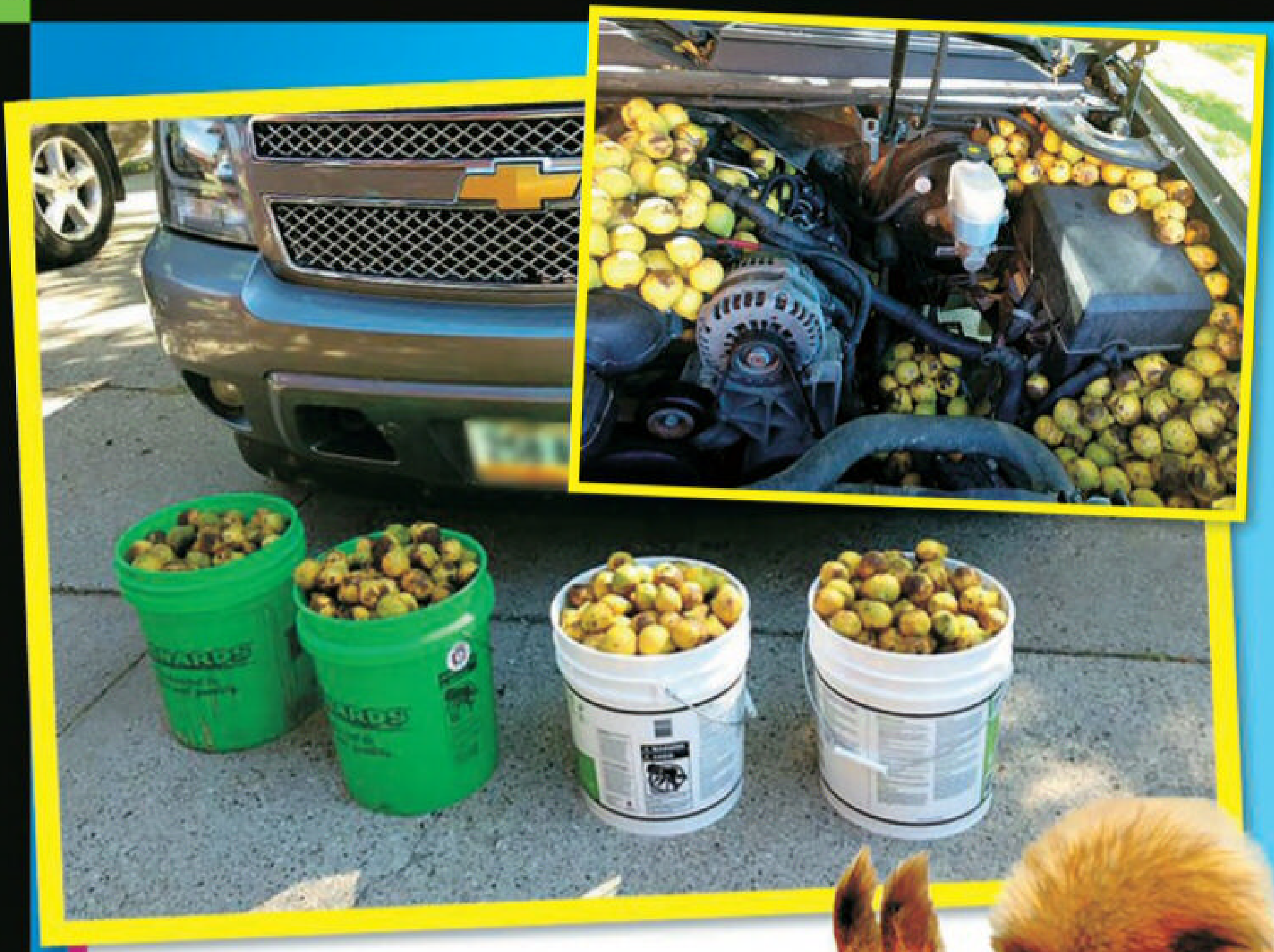
ZOO KNEW?

Animal news and fun facts!



A squirrel hid nearly 200 pounds of nuts inside a car!

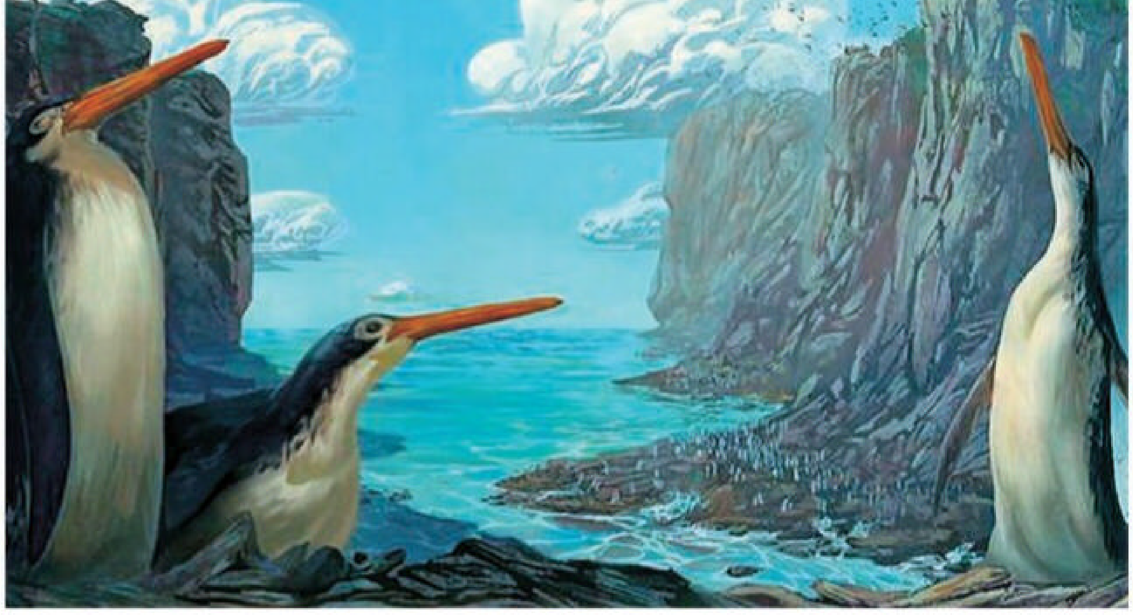
Do you have a snack cabinet at home? Well, unfortunately for squirrels, there's no snack cabinet inside trees! One inventive red squirrel in North Dakota found a way to keep their walnuts away from any hungry competition … by hiding them under the hood of a truck! When a man left his truck home to go on a trip, the squirrel got to work packing 182 pounds of walnuts inside. When he got back and popped his hood, the man saw enough walnuts to fill seven big buckets. He says the squirrel has been using his truck as storage for years, but this is by far the biggest collection of treats yet!

Cows are being potty trained to help the environment!

When cows go number one in the grass, chemicals in their pee soak into the soil. Scientists believe that some of those chemicals aren't great for environment. Since there are around a billion cows in the world, that's a lot of cow pee causing pollution. The solution? Getting cows to use a bathroom, of course! In Germany, researchers have already trained cows to use a bathroom stall area instead of doing their business in the grass. Now that they know cows can figure out where to go, other researchers around the world can begin to train more cows to follow suit. It would be a great help to our environment!

Experts explain why cats can't roar like lions!

Have you ever wondered why big cats, like lions and tigers, have roars that echo though the grasslands, but cats have purrs that you can barely hear through a bedroom door? Well, scientists say that all cat species can roar or purr, but none of them can do both! Cats big and small have voice boxes that allow them to make such unique noises. Big cats have strong, bendy parts in their voice box that allow for that deep, loud roar. Small cats have a muscle that moves really fast to create that gentle purring sound. Why doesn't their voice box allow for both? Scientists aren't exactly sure, but some believe it's because small cats need a quieter purr that will drown out the sounds of their babies mewing to keep predators away!



A group of kids discovered a 30-million-year-old penguin fossil!

Imagine going on a field trip and finding actual fossils? That's what happened to group of kids in New Zealand! The Hamilton Junior Naturalist Club was on a class trip when they spotted fossilized bones. The group, ages 10 to 18, didn't know at the time, but their discovery was the most complete giant penguin skeleton ever found! And, after loads of research, paleontologists shared the news that it's a never-before-discovered species of penguin! Named the Kairuku waewaeroa, the giant penguin stood over four feet tall and lived over 25 years ago. What an awesome discovery!

This famous walrus was spotted after going missing!

Meet Wally, the celebrity walrus! Wally became famous in Europe last summer when the 1,763-pound walrus was spotted touring around locations like Ireland, France, Spain and England. Arctic animals like walruses don't typically travel to these places, so many locals were shocked to see him! The curious walrus would hop into boats to relax … and even sank a few with his massive size! But then, Wally disappeared, and wildlife experts feared the worst. After 22 days of waiting, Wally finally reemerged in Iceland … nearly 600 miles from the last place he was spotted! Marine experts believe Wally was on his way back to his home in Norway where the water is colder. Guess it was summer vacation!

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Dinosaurs may have wagged their tails like dogs!

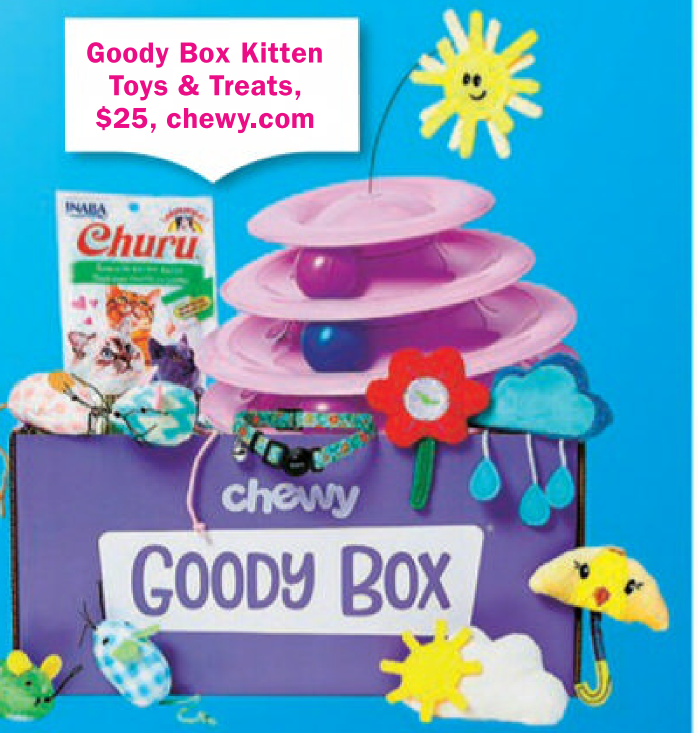
Dinosaur bones can tell us a lot about how the extinct creatures looked, but it's a bit harder for experts to understand exactly how they moved! Most scientists have thought that dinosaurs had tails to help with their balance, similar to how our toes help us with balance. Now, new research suggests that those tails may have wagged back and forth, like dogs' tails. Why did their tails move back and forth? It wasn't to show that they were ready to play — it was to help them run fast! Similar to the way we swing our arms front to back as we run, dinosaurs may have used their wagging tails to help them gain momentum as they were running.

Ants have jaws made of metal!

For being so tiny, ants sure do have powerfully sharp bites! Their tiny teeth-like jaws allow them to expertly cut through leaves without much effort. How do they do it? Well, their jaws are naturally infused with metals including manganese and zinc that make them extra-strong! Researchers recently studied ants' metal-infused body parts and learned that they're similar to knives! Because their teeth are so strong, ants don't have to worry about the rest of their bodies being small or weak … they can let their jaws do all the hard work!

Gotta GET IT!

Welcome home a new kitten with a box of fun! This gift is like a blind box for cats! You can unbox all the goodies — treats and toys for your cat to enjoy.



Goody Box Kitten Toys & Treats, $25, chewy.com

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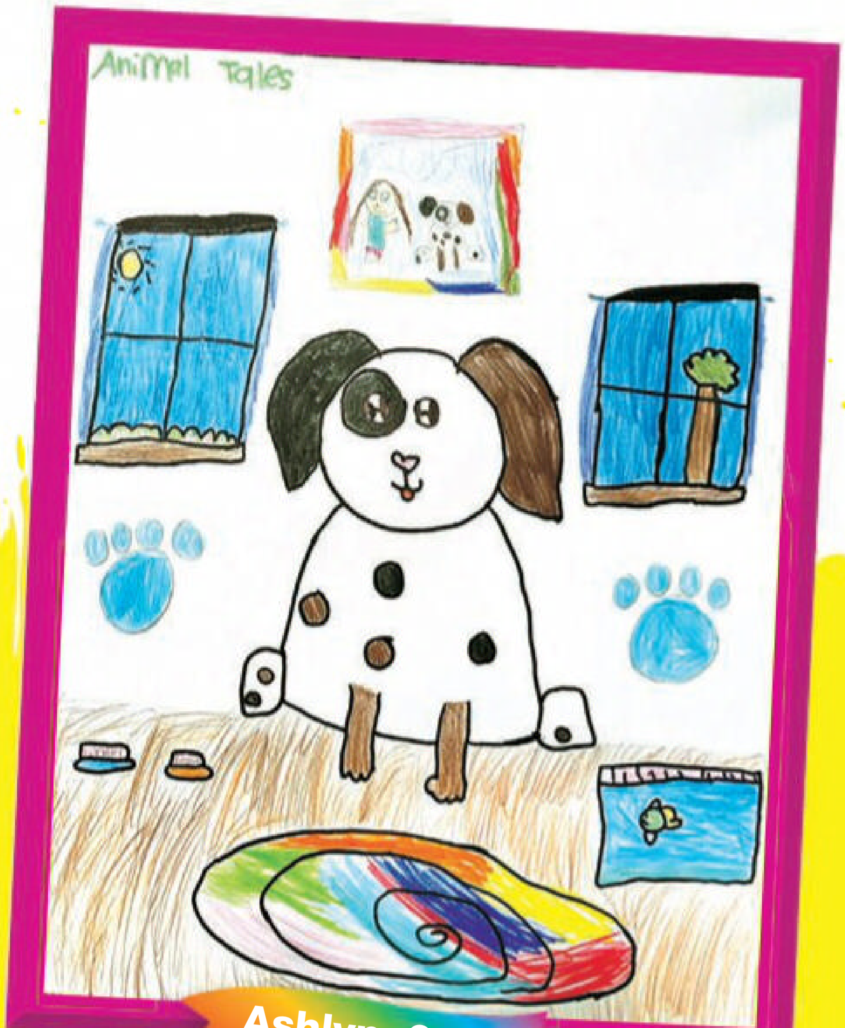
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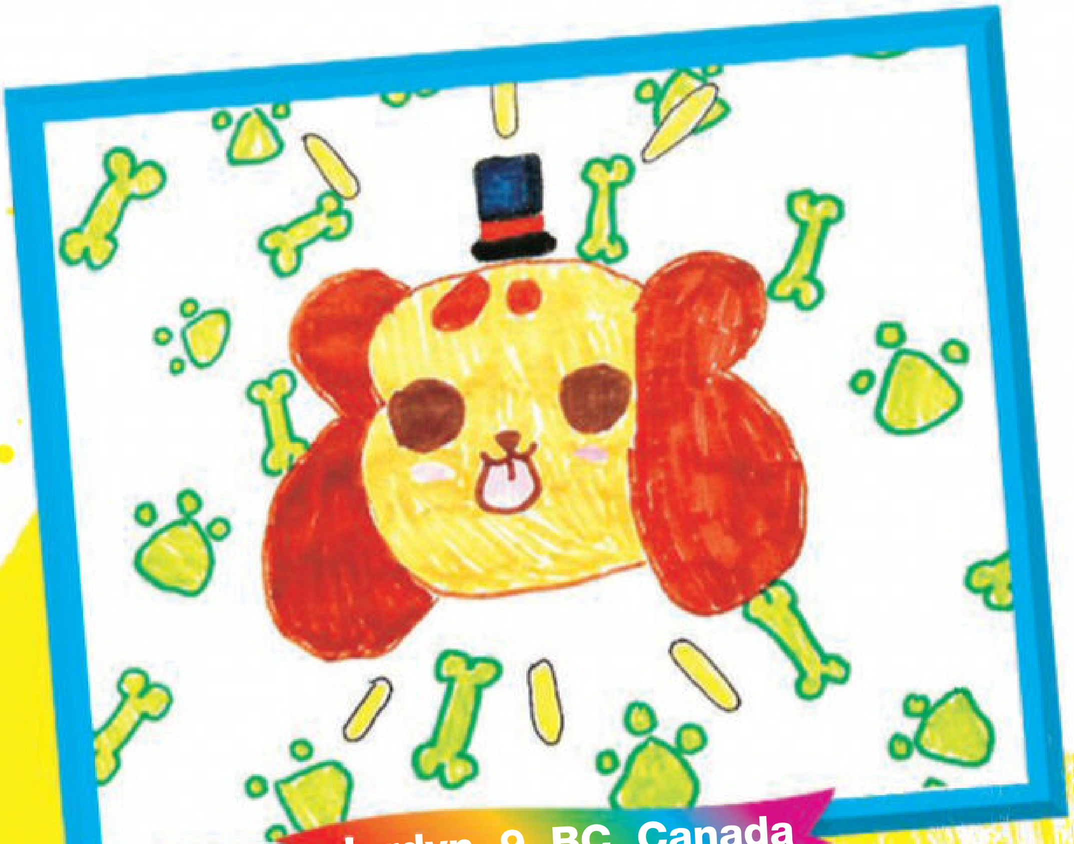

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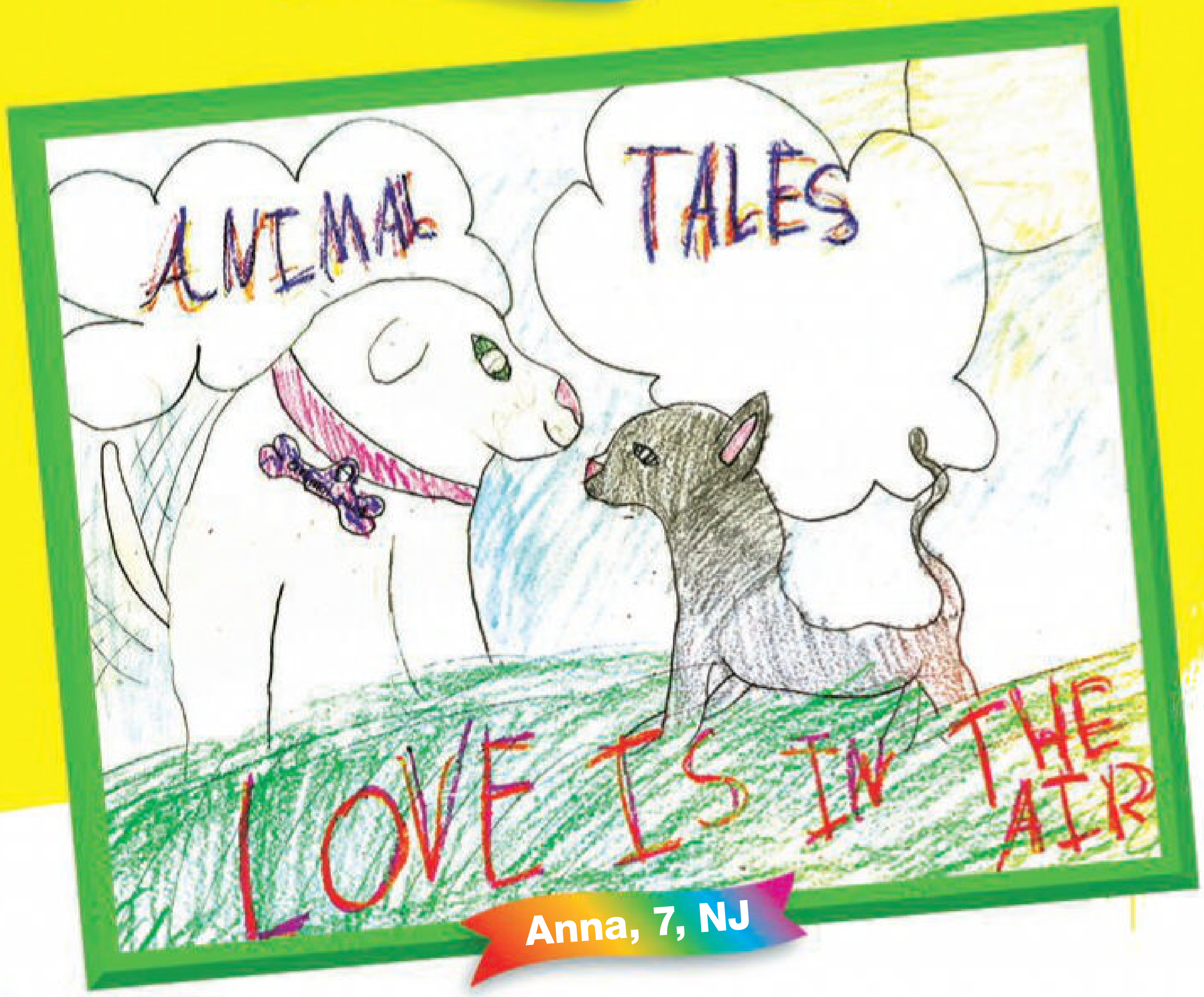
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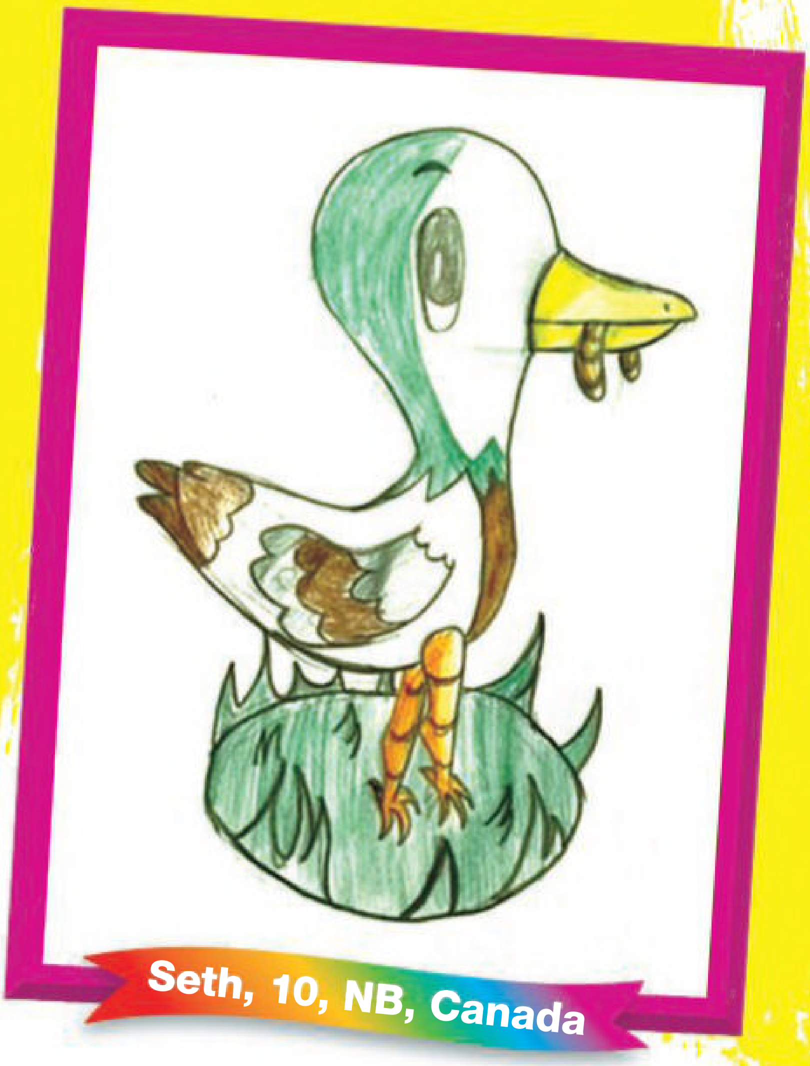

Seth, 10, NB, Canada

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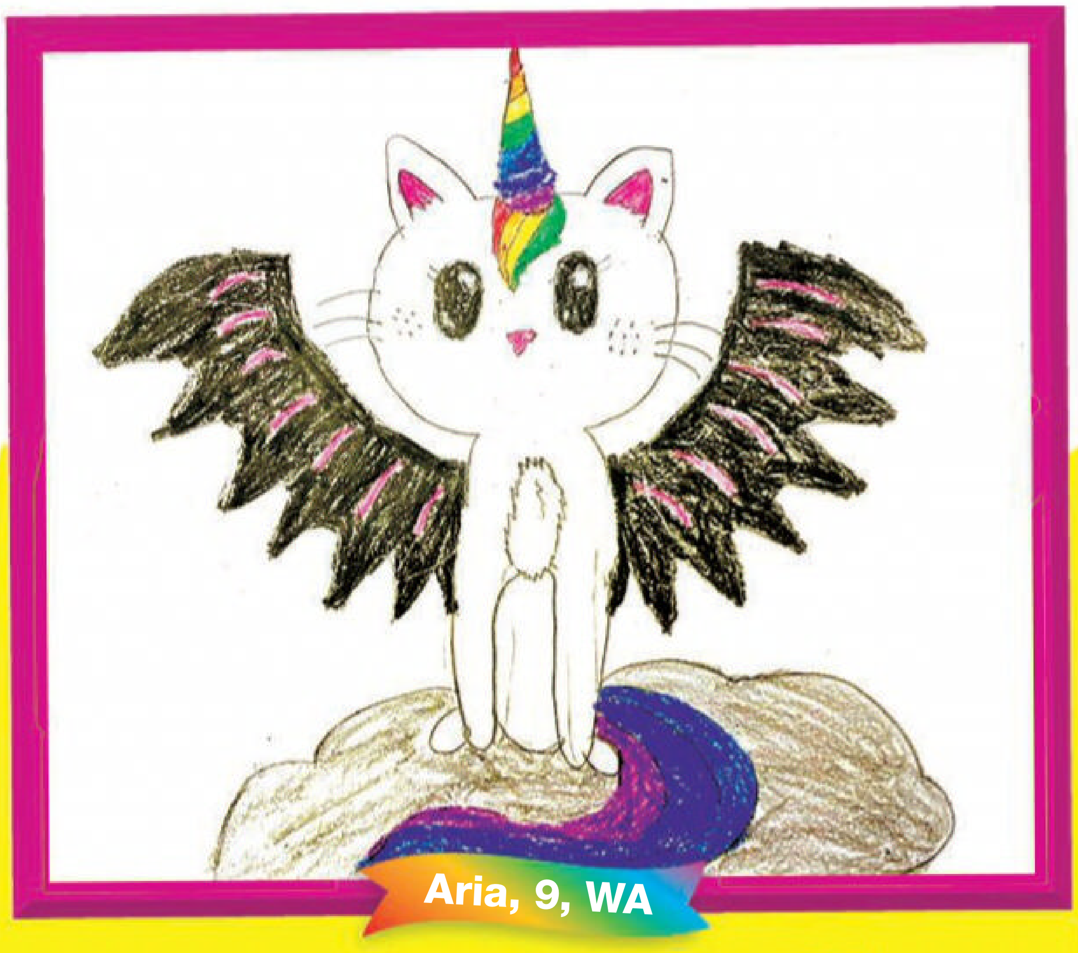
we loved looking



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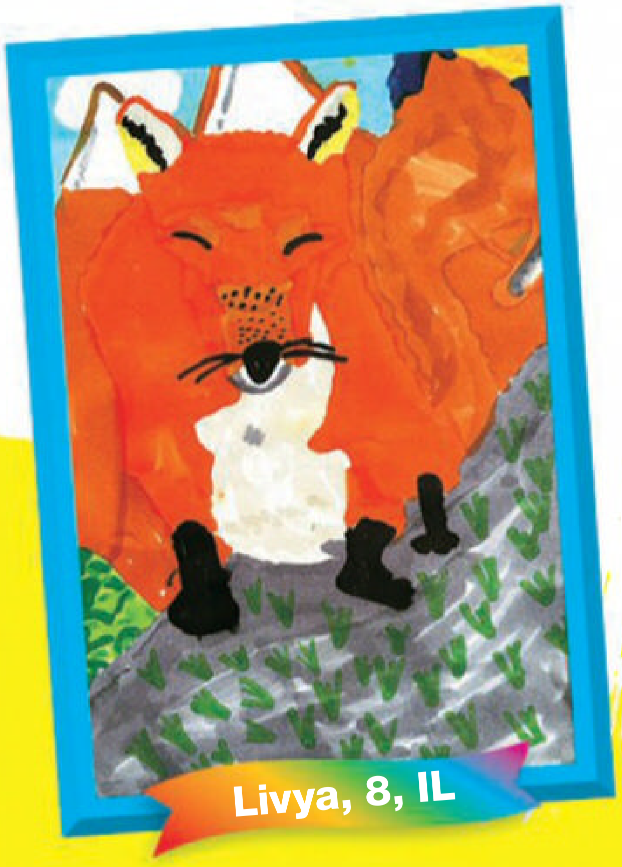

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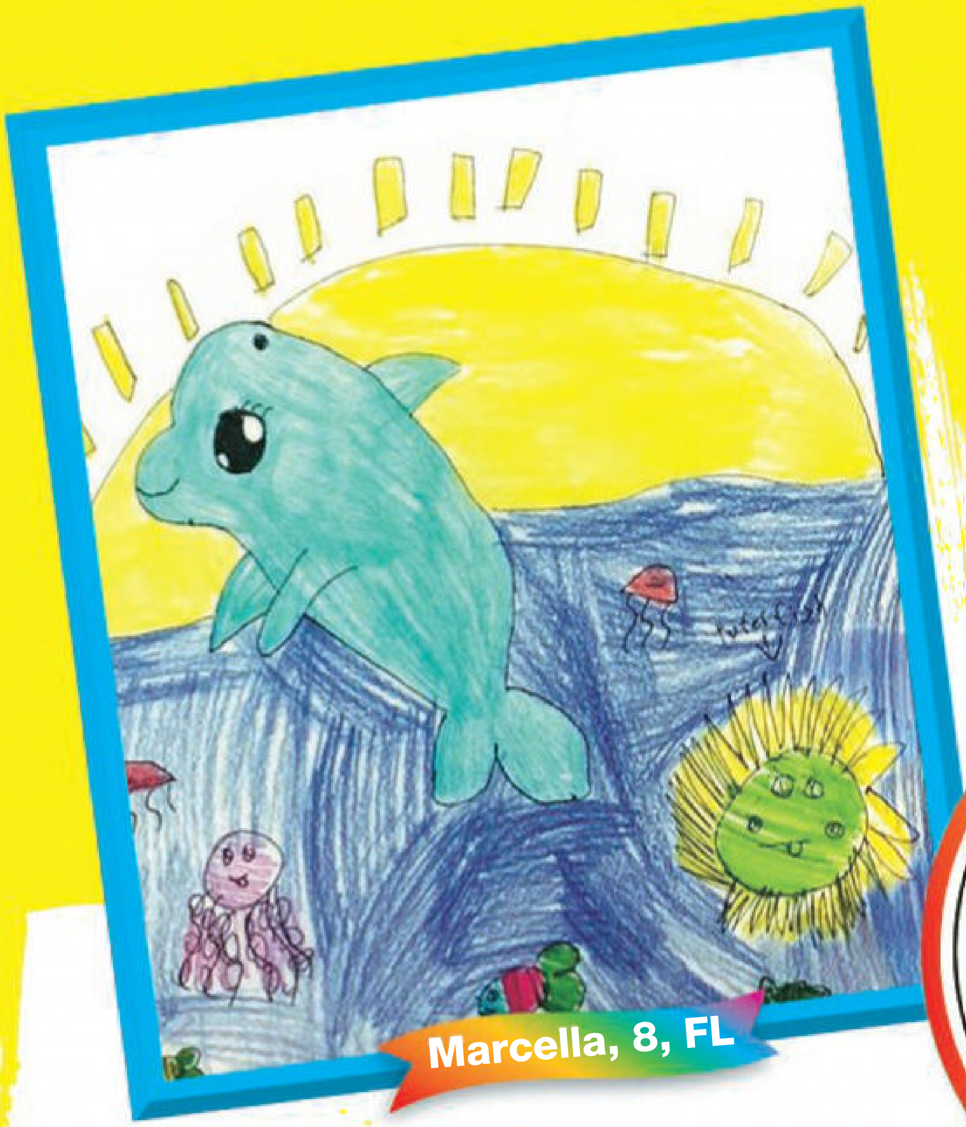

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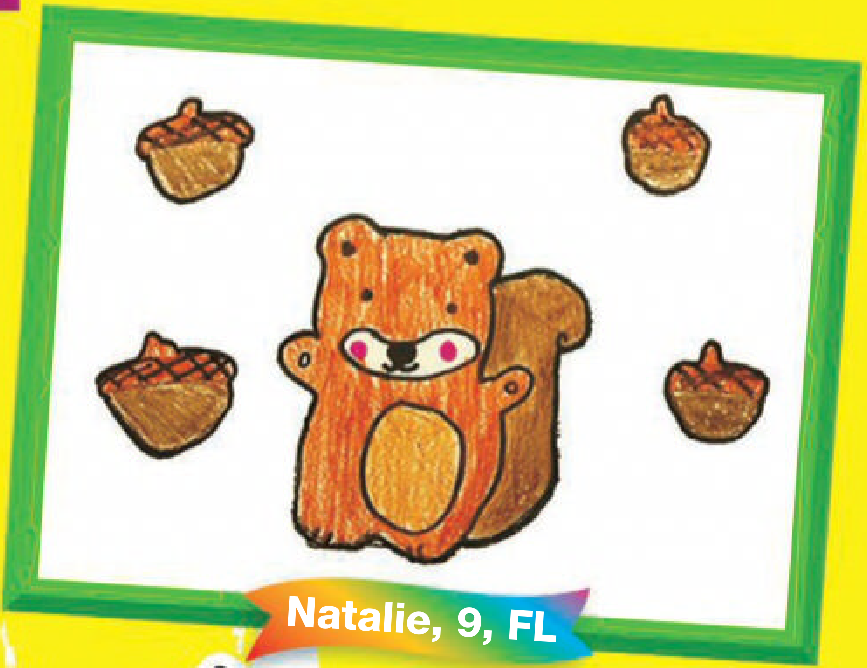


Natalie, 9, FL

SEND US YOUR ARTWORK!

Draw a picture of an animal, and it could wind up in our next issue! Send your drawing and first name, age and state to mail@animaltalesmag.com or *Animal Tales*, Express Yourself, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004

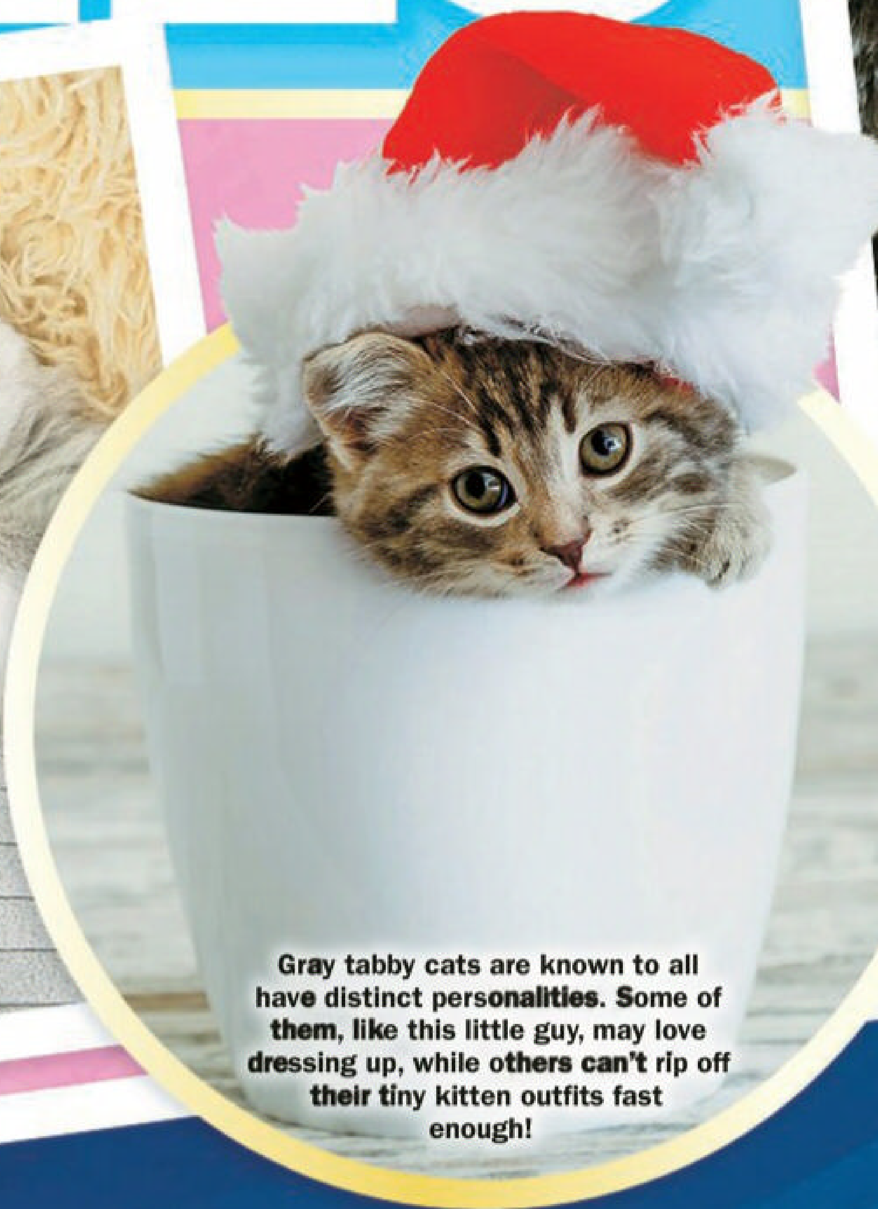
Yourself

at all of your adorable animal drawings!

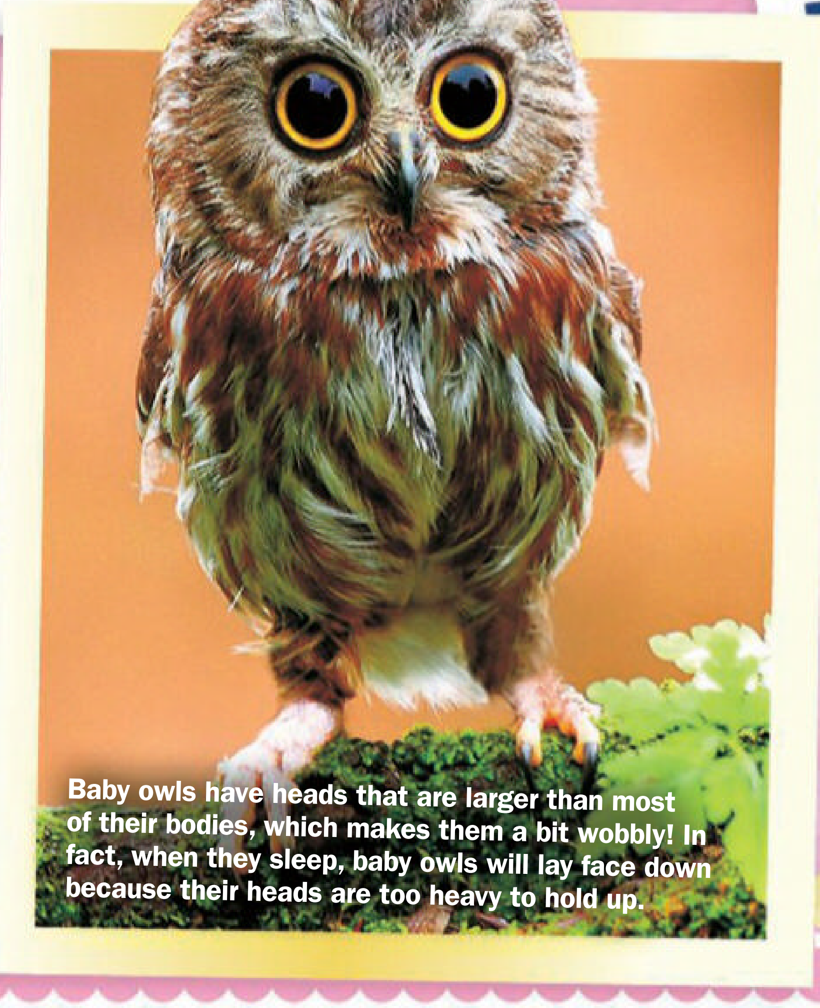
Animal BABIES

We can't get enough of these adorable little ones!

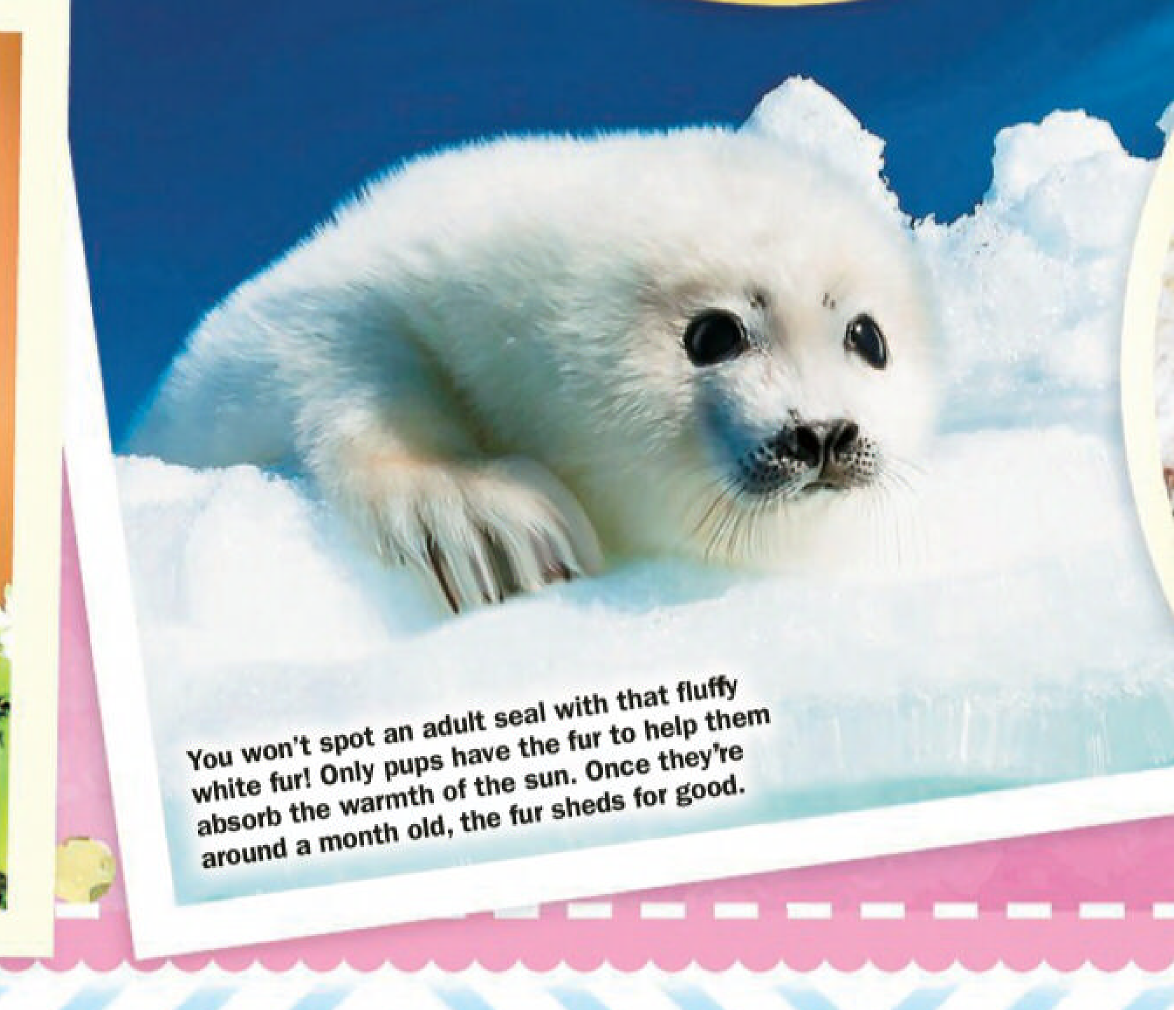
In the cold climate where they're from, sleeping Siberian huskies will use their tails to wrap around their faces so that their warm breath will heat them up as they snooze!



Gray tabby cats are known to all have distinct personalities. Some of them, like this little guy, may love dressing up, while others can't rip off their tiny kitten outfits fast enough!



Baby owls have heads that are larger than most of their bodies, which makes them a bit wobbly! In fact, when they sleep, baby owls will lay face down because their heads are too heavy to hold up.



You won't spot an adult seal with that fluffy white fur! Only pups have the fur to help them absorb the warmth of the sun. Once they're around a month old, the fur sheds for good.

ANURAK PONGPATIMET/SHUTTERSTOCK; BETON STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; MOHIT SHOOT/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK (3); MARK A. MCCAFFREY/ SHUTTERSTOCK; NATALIA FEDOSOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Moose calves are defenseless when they're first born and rely on their moms to keep them safe and healthy. But, once they're a bit older, they'll begin to gain four pounds a day until they're strong enough to defend themselves!

Polar bears love playing together! They'll even play fight, which helps them to bond and learn how to protect themselves from any potential danger.

SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your baby animal, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com or send it to *Animal Tales*, Animal Babies, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

This is a Gentoo penguin with her two chicks. They're the third-largest species of penguin and what makes them special is that unique long tail you can see poking out from behind the momma!

Have you notice that a lot of dogs in movies and television shows are golden retrievers? That's because this breed is very smart and easy to train to do things like carrying sticks!

What your pet reveals about you!

Find the type of pet you have below and see what it says about your personality!

Dog

Dogs are man's best friend, right? Well, then it makes sense that you'd pick one because friendship is the most important thing to you! It's easy for you to make new buds because you're so outgoing.

Hamster

You're never stop moving, just like a hamster on its wheel! You have a ton of energy, and you use it to get things done — studying for a big test, putting in extra practice to help out your sports team and more.

Rabbit

Rabbits are known for their large ears, and you're always willing to lend an ear to your loved ones. When they open up to you, you really listen and you give them the best advice afterwards.

Fish

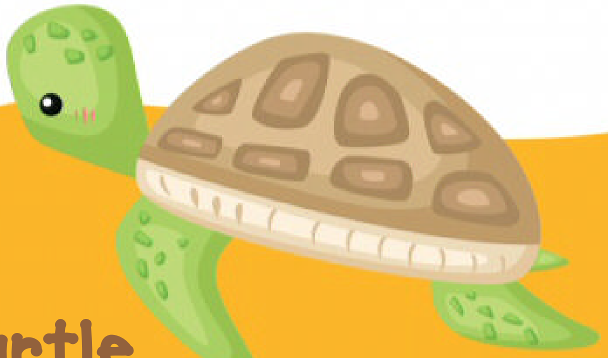
Fish are used to a pretty low-key lifestyle — just swimming in their tanks and gobbling up the food you drop in it. That's perfect for you because you're super-chill and low maintenance.

Bird

Like your pet, you need room to spread your wings and fly! It's impossible for you to get bored because you always have a new idea for an activity to try or a place to visit.

Cat

Cats do what they want when they want, no matter what. We bet that sounds familiar! You're an independent kid who can have as much fun with friends as you can on your own.



Turtle

A pet turtle barely makes a sound, which might be why you wanted one. You're a little on the shy side, but when you do decide to speak, you always say something smart and insightful.

INKLEY STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK (13)

"Let's give it a go!"
-Gabby

GABBY AND THE GABBY CATS HAVE A *Holiday Surprise For You!*

Join everyone from Gabby's Dollhouse in playing a-meow-zing holiday puzzles and games.

Kitty Cat Word Search

R	I	A	H	Z	C	K	I	T	T	Y	F	A	I	R	Y	B	M
Z	A	J	L	Y	X	C	Y	R	P	C	E	D	S	M	F	I	A
A	D	G	H	A	B	A	A	K	M	E	R	C	A	T	N	D	M
D	J	O	M	N	C	R	D	G	H	F	B	T	A	D	S	B	A
D	C	V	G	B	W	L	C	A	T	R	A	T	B	A	U	N	B
C	A	K	E	Y	G	I	E	X	D	S	A	R	A	N	B	T	O
A	T	J	C	Q	Y	T	M	A	E	G	N	I	H	M	O	B	X
V	N	A	V	T	B	A	B	Y	B	O	X	G	D	Q	Z	M	N
T	I	U	G	B	H	T	R	O	V	N	Y	C	S	T	A	Y	X
P	P	W	T	P	I	L	L	O	W	C	A	T	E	T	L	T	W
S	D	L	O	N	X	N	R	C	E	V	O	U	Q	X	S	D	N
Z	A	B	H	G	B	G	P	A	N	D	Y	P	A	W	S	L	G

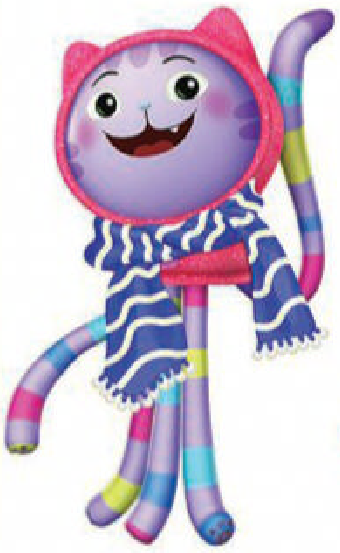
Can You Find These Ten Friends?

Mama Box
Pandy Paws
CatRat
Kitty Fairy
DJ Catnip
Baby Box
MerCat
Pillow Cat
Carlita
Cakey

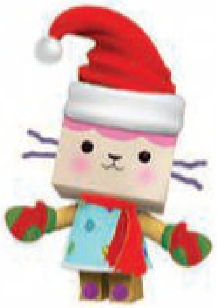
"Here's a hint: mine rhymes with kittens!"
-Pandy

Spot The Winter Gear

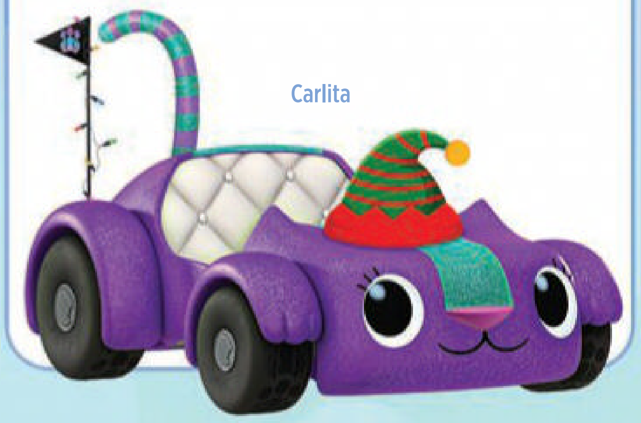
Can you draw a circle around the seasonal accessories on Gabby's friends?



DJ Catnip



Baby Box

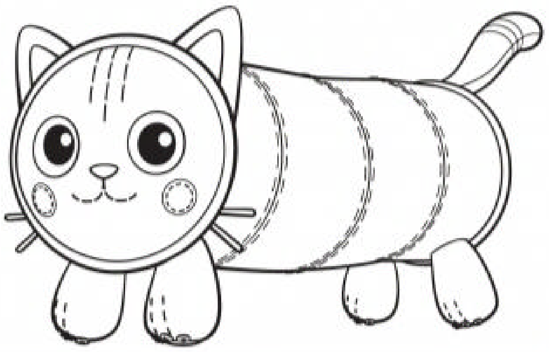


Carlita

DRESS A CAT UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

"I'm ready for the sprinkle party!"
-Cakey

Use your creativity and get Pillow Cat ready for the holidays! Add colorful bows, sparkle and more!



DREAMWORKS GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE

NETFLIX | NOW STREAMING

DreamWorks Gabby's Dollhouse © 2021 DreamWorks Animation LLC. All rights reserved.

CAREFUL: This recipe should be made with an adult.

ELENA SHASHKINA/SHUTTERSTOCK

RUDOLPH

Hot Chocolate!

Oh, deer! This cocoa will go down in history!

Directions:

1. Start by creating the Rudolph marshmallows! Heat your melting chocolate according to package directions. Place ¾ of the chocolate in a sandwich bag, which you'll turn into a piping bag later. Leave the rest in your bowl.

2. Dip all your pretzel sticks into the chocolate bowl. Cover them in chocolate, leaving a small space at the end of each one uncovered, then place them on your work surface.

3. Snip the tip off the corner of the chocolate-filled sandwich bag. Use it to pipe the rounded antlers on the pretzels. Let them harden.

4. Next, pipe upside down "Vs" on each marshmallows for Rudolph's eyes, and use a little more chocolate to attach the red candy noses.

5. Once the chocolate antlers are set, attach them to the marshmallows by pressing in the uncovered ends of the pretzels. If you need a little more hold, melt some more chocolate and use it like glue when pressing in. Set the marshmallows aside for now.

6. It's time to start making the cocoa! In a small saucepan, whisk together the cocoa, salt, sugar and 2 tablespoons of milk over medium-low heat. Warm until the cocoa and sugar dissolve.

7. Whisk in the rest of the milk and turn up the heat to medium. Whisk occasionally until the liquid is hot, then stir in the vanilla and remove from heat.

8. Pour the hot chocolate into a mug. Cover with whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon if you'd like. Top it off by adding the reindeer marshmallows.

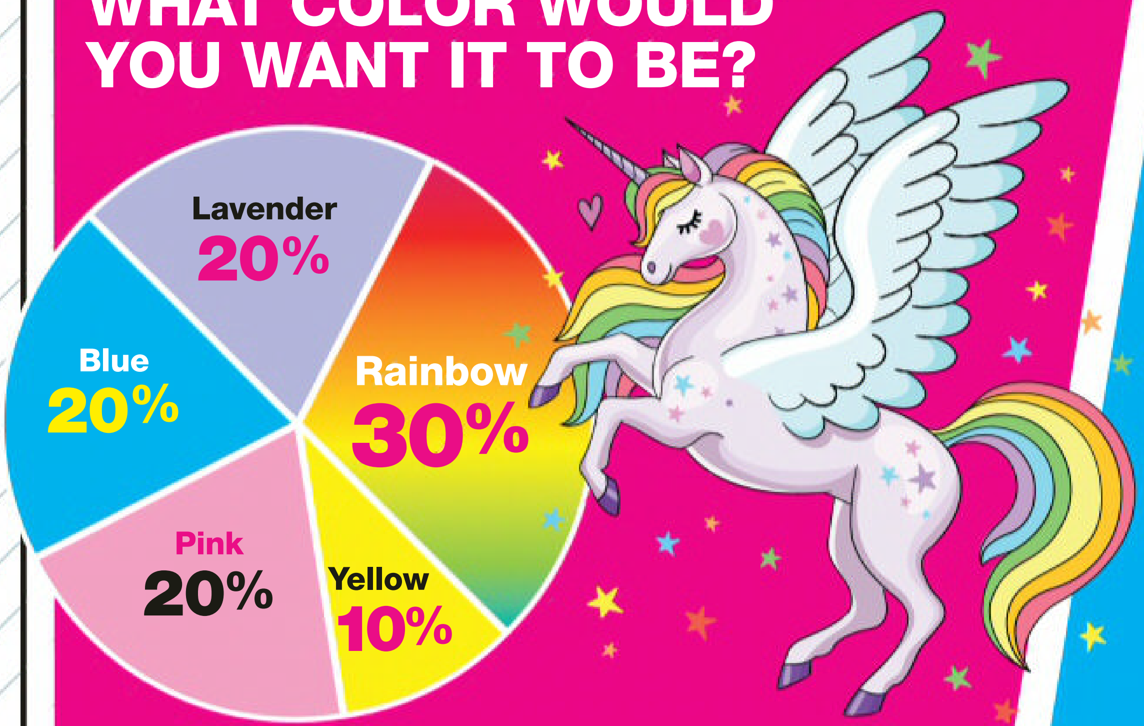
Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- pinch of salt
- 1½ tablespoons sugar
- ¼ vanilla extract
- 1 cup milk
- whipped cream (optional)
- sprinkle of cinnamon (optional)
- 2 large marshmallows
- 4 pretzel sticks
- ½ cup melting chocolate
- 4 red Tic Tacs, jellybeans or similar candy

You SAID IT!

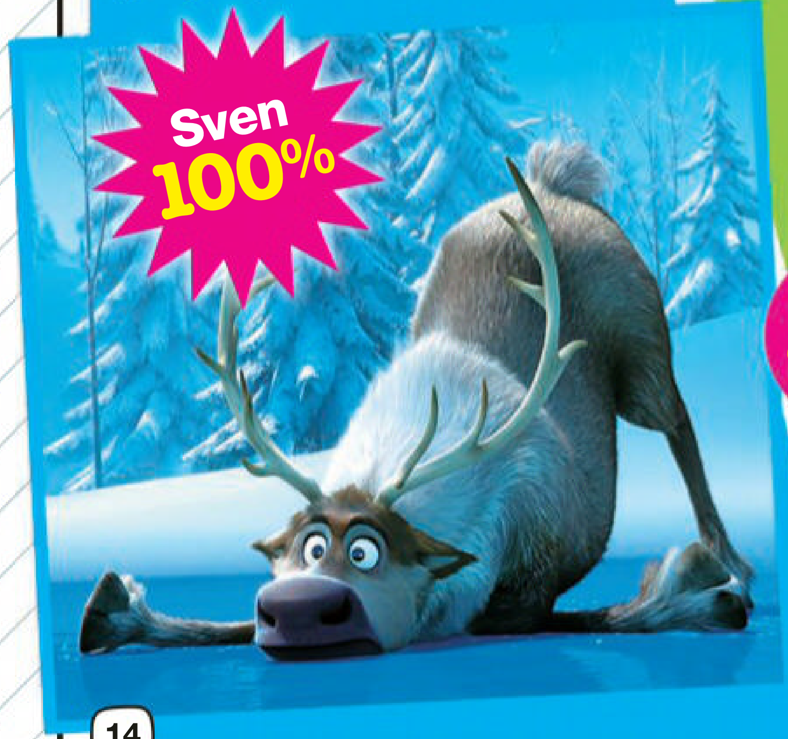
Check out the results of our latest poll!

IF YOU HAD A UNICORN, WHAT COLOR WOULD YOU WANT IT TO BE?

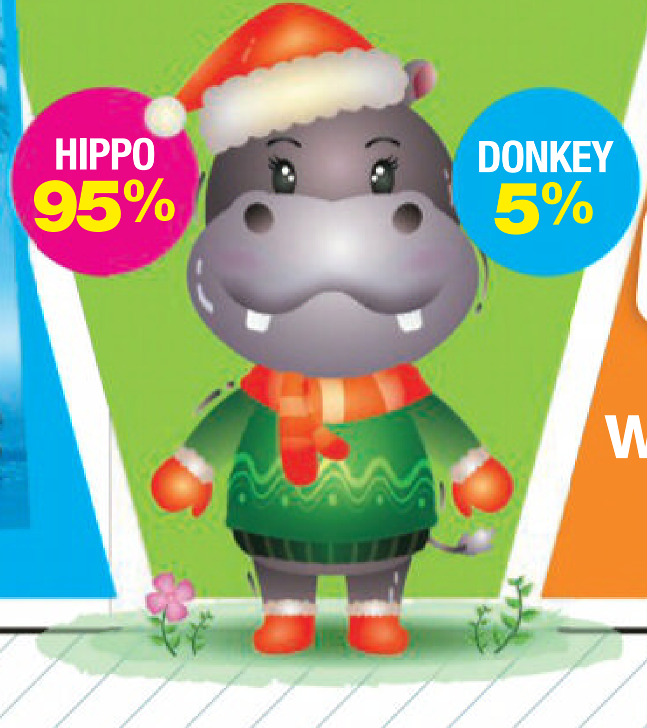


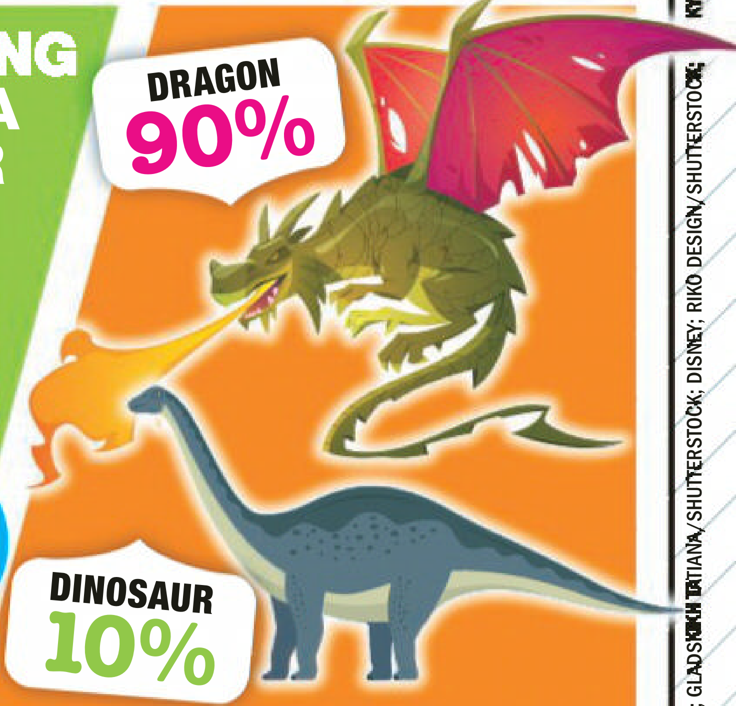
DO YOU LET YOUR PET DOG SLEEP IN BED WITH YOU?

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE REINDEER?



WHICH CHRISTMAS SONG IS BETTER: “I WANT A HIPPOPOTAMUS FOR CHRISTMAS” OR “DOMINICK THE DONKEY?”


HIPPO 95%
DONKEY 5%


DRAGON 90%
DINOSAUR 10%

WHICH CREATURE WOULD YOU RATHER MEET: A DRAGON OR A DINOSAUR?

LUCHI/SHUTTERSTOCK; GLADSKIKH TATIANA/SHUTTERSTOCK; DISNEY; RIKO DESIGN/SHUTTERSTOCK; KYLAKSUN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ZHENYAKOT/SHUTTERSTOCK

Yes 100%

DO YOU LIKE DRAWING ANIMALS?

WOULD YOU GO SWIMMING WITH SHARKS?

No 60%

Yes 40%

No 65%

Yes 35%

HAVE YOU EVER GOTTEN YOUR DOG A PUPPUCCINO?

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL SNACK: GOLDFISH CRACKERS OR ANIMAL CRACKERS?

Goldfish
BAKED
Colors
BARNUM'S ANIMALS
CRACKERS

Goldfish 75%

Animal 25%

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A PET FISH?

Yes 70%

No 30%

SYDA PRODUCTIONS/SHUTTERSTOCK; NADYA ART/SHUTTERSTOCK; LIBBY BY ABBY & CLINT TAYLOR; SHEILA FITZGERALD/SHUTTERSTOCK; LORI BABELY/SHUTTERSTOCK; NEW AFRICA/SHUTTERSTOCK

ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE!

Have you ever adopted a pet?

What do you think is the scariest animal in the wild?

Have you seen a dolphin in real life?

What type of animal videos do you like best?

Are you more like Ladybug or Cat Noir?

Do you know the difference between a crocodile and an alligator?

If you could be any animal for a day, which would you pick?"

Would you try feeding an animal from the palm of your hand?

Are you a boy or a girl? Age:

CUT OUT AND MAIL TO:

Animal Tales, You Said It!, 4 New York Plaza,
2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004,
email your answers to mail@animaltalesmag.com.

Dogs ON THE

SERVICE DOGS

Service dogs, also known as assistance dogs, work to help humans with disabilities. They can do things like guide people who can't see or hear, assist people in wheelchairs or sniff out high blood sugar in someone with diabetes. Service dogs are often given their jobs as puppies and will train for months before they're ready to start work. When they're working, they have to be very well-behaved and know that they're number-one responsibility is to stay focused on caring for their human. Many service dogs wear a special uniform: a harness that lets other know that they're working.

BEST BREEDS FOR THE JOB: Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever, Poodle

SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS

Search and rescue dogs help find people who have gone missing and return them to safety. They can work anywhere from neighborhoods to forests and mountains. Dogs make great search and rescue workers because of their excellent sense of smell. They'll start to train when they are puppies and will learn how to sniff around for the scent of the person that is missing. They have to know how to listen to their human, keep their nose on the scent and signal to the humans they're working with when they find any clues!

BEST BREEDS FOR THE JOB: Bloodhound, Labrador Retriever, Golden Retriever

POLICE DOGS

Police dogs are also known as K9s, and they're trained to help police officers. This involves a lot of different tasks, and it isn't an easy job! Police dogs must be brave because they're often going into dangerous

AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; NOSKA PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; VAKS-STOCK AGENCY/SHUTTERSTOCK; S1001/SHUTTERSTOCK; PANDAS/SHUTTERSTOCK

JOB!

These pups have jobs that are just as important as their human partners!

situations. They'll help catch bad guys, use their noses to find evidence and protect people in danger. These dogs have to be very intelligent, hardworking and athletic. They'll live with their human partner, who will also go through lots of training to learn how to best work alongside their K9.
BEST BREEDS FOR THE JOB: German Shepard, Belgian Malinois, Bloodhound

HERDING DOGS

Herding dogs are responsible for keeping groups of animals together. Their human will command them when to get a herd of animals, like cattle or sheep, to move from one spot to another, which is very helpful for farmers. Herding dogs have to be bold enough to convince tons of large animals to move in the right direction but also gentle enough to not spook them. They learn special commands that tell them to do things like bark at the herd, find an animal that's gone missing or slow down the herd.
BEST BREEDS FOR THE JOB: Australian Cattle Dog, Australian Shepard, Border Collie

WATER RESCUE DOGS

Humans aren't the only ones who make good lifeguards! Water rescue dogs leap into action to save people who are in danger in the water. They are excellent swimmers and can get to someone out in the water very quickly. Plus, their noses help guide them right to the person in need. They'll wear rescue gear so that when they get to the human in the water, they can hold onto the gear as the dog swims them back to safety. They can even be trained to flip someone so that their head is out of the water!
BEST BREEDS FOR THE JOB: Newfoundlands, Labrador Retriever, Portuguese Water Dogs

Which SIN

Sing 2 hits theaters on December 22!

DIRECTIONS:
First: Look at the words below and circle the five words that describe you the most.

courageous
unique
tough
comforting
generous
talented
bold
optimistic
rebellious
driven
smiley

MOSTLY NAVY

ROSITA

Rosita is the best friend anyone could have ... and so are you! You're both super-supportive and would do anything for your pals.

MOSTLY RED

JOHNNY

Johnny's had to fight to achieve his dreams against all odds. You're just as determined to makes yours come true!

G character are you?

Don't let fear stop you from ~~doing the thing you love~~ taking this quiz!

encouraging

ambitious

hard-working

enthusiastic

risk-taker

sweet

stubborn

leader

confident

persistent

helpful

cheerful

original

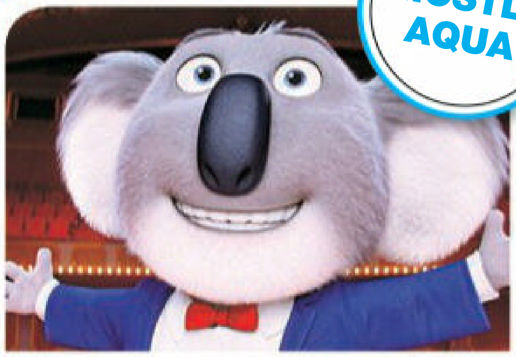
daring

Movie Scoop!

Excited for the sequel? We know what you can except! "We'd decided we wanted to make the second one and knew we wanted to take it to the next level," the film's director, Garth Jennings, reveals. "I thought it would be so fun if the characters tried to do Vegas. The scale is super-ambitious, and they would meet all the people you need to meet for the big leagues."

NEXT:
Look at the colors of the circled words. Whichever color you've circled the most reveals which character is just like you!

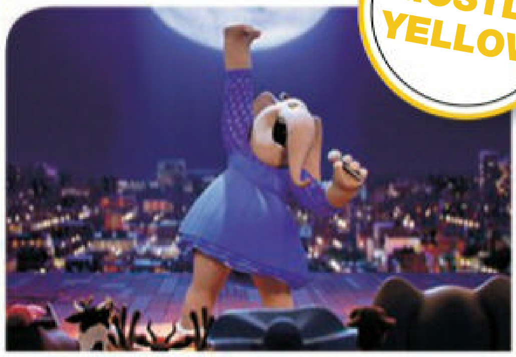
MOSTLY AQUA



BUSTER MOON

The word "quit" isn't in Buster Moon's vocabulary! Like him, you look on the bright side and believe things will work out.

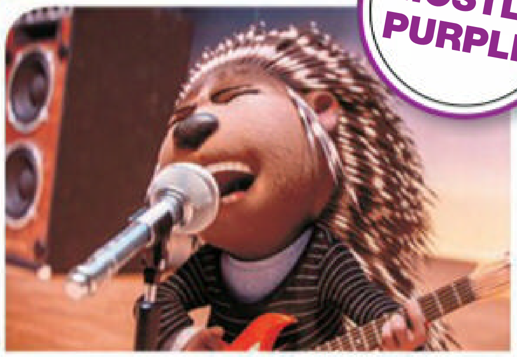
MOSTLY YELLOW



MEENA

You try to face your fears, just like Meena's conquering her stage fright. Helpful hint: You're even braver than you think!

MOSTLY PURPLE



ASH

Ash has always been the rebel of this crew, and you can relate to that. You march to the beat of your own drum!

ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT/UNIVERSAL; UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK (3); SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

BFFs

Best Friends Furever

Animals have besties, too!

DOGS

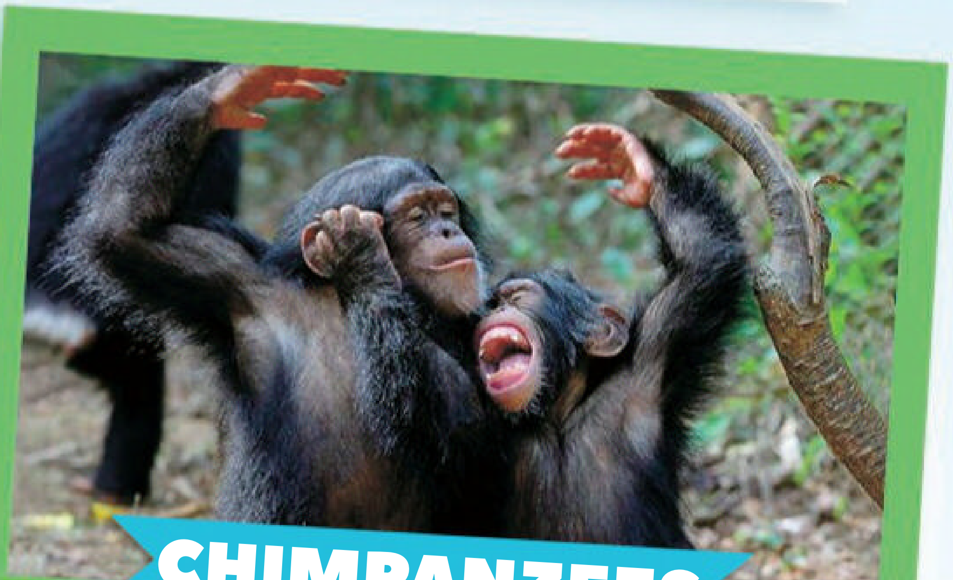
You can tell when your dog considers another pup a friend because he'll be more likely to share his toys, water, bed and sometimes even his treats with them!

CATS

Want to introduce your cat to a new kitty friend? Experts say that you should be patient while waiting for the two of them to bond. It can take a few months!

DOLPHINS

These sea creatures are dedicated BFFs! They take care of their pals when they're sick or injured, not leaving their side until they're sure their friend is okay.



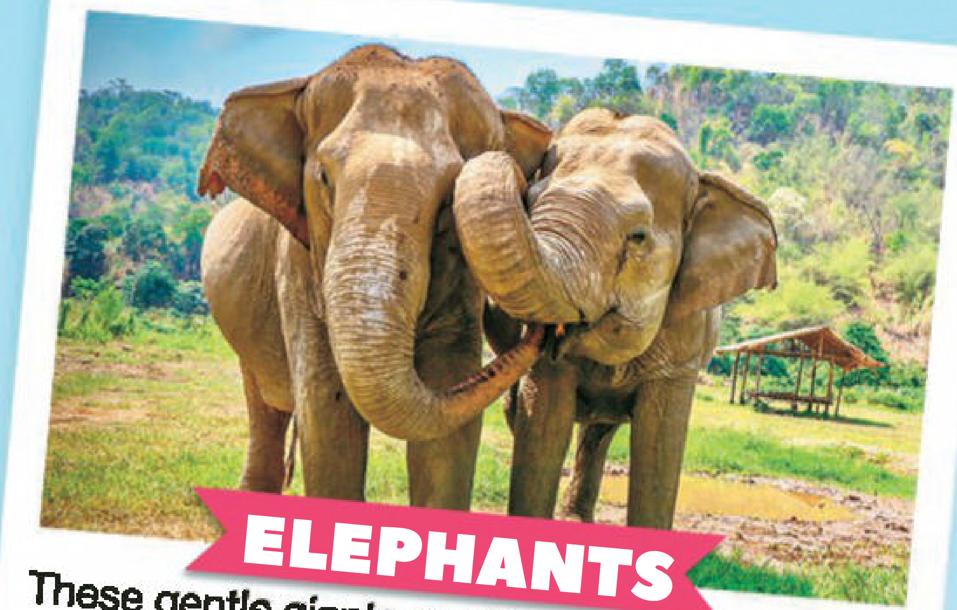
CHIMPANZEES

If a chimp sees her friend having a disagreement with another chimp, she'll head over to have her pal's back.

OTS PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK (3); VLADIMIR TURKENICH/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROGER DE LA HARPE/SHUTTERSTOCK; GEZA FARKAS/SHUTTERSTOCK; ARNO VAN DULMEN/SHUTTERSTOCK; CHERYL RAMALHO/SHUTTERSTOCK; RITA KOCHMARJOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

BABOONS

Baboons let each other know they want to be friends a little differently. They'll smack their lips, grunt and groom each other.



ELEPHANTS

These gentle giants are known to form lifelong friendships, which makes sense because they live together in big groups.

BATS

Do you ever share your snacks with your besties in the cafeteria? Then you have something in common with bats. They share food with their closest pals!

HORSES

It's rare to find a farm that only has one horse. Why? Because horses feel safer and happier when there are other horse friends around to hang out with.

COWS

Researchers have found that cows have best friends, and they feel anxious when they're separated from them.

LLAMAS

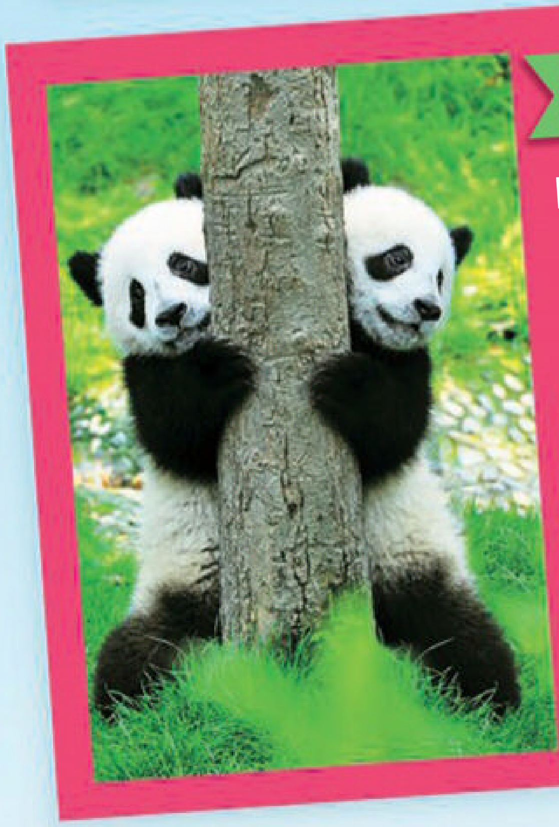
Llamas have been compared to dogs because they're very social creatures. They live in herds,which basically gives them a bult-in friend group.

ORCAS

Killer whales who form close friendships inside their pods, a.k.a. the groups they live in, tend to live longer than ones who don't.

HYENAS

They have a reputation for being a little terrifying … we've all seen *The Lion King*, right? Well, it may surprise you to know that hyenas are considered loyal buds.

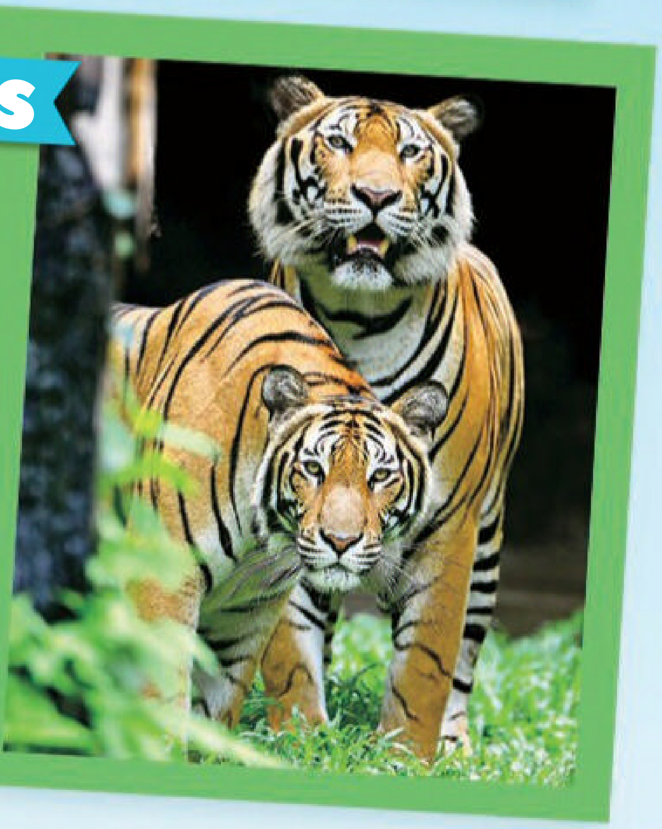


PANDAS

Experts used to believe that pandas were loners, but after studying them in the wild, they discovered that they do enjoy spending some time goofing around with friends.

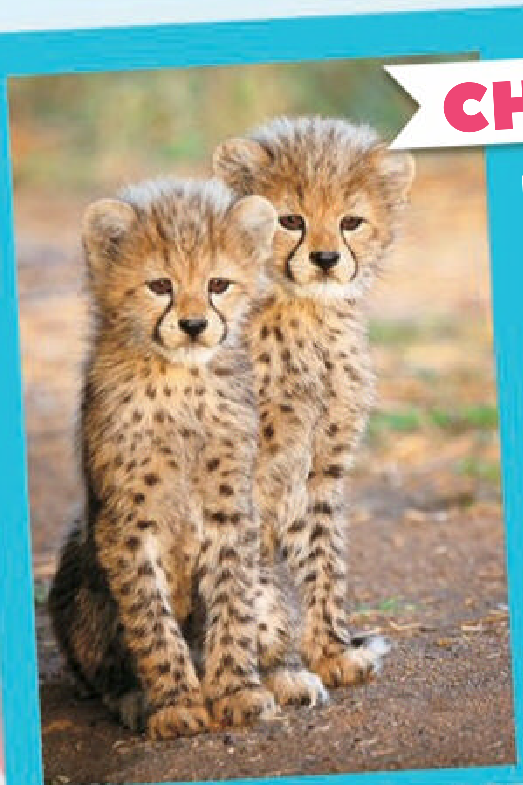
TIGERS

How do tigers bond? They go hunting with each other, or they splash around together in water. They'll swim for hours!



DEER

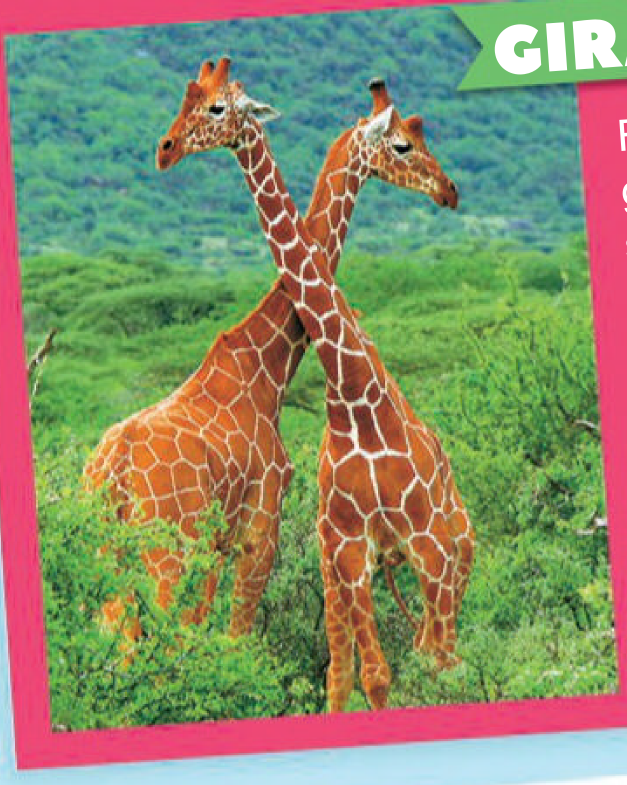
Deer pals will communicate with grunts and wheezes, but they can also speak to each other through tail movements.



CHEETAHS

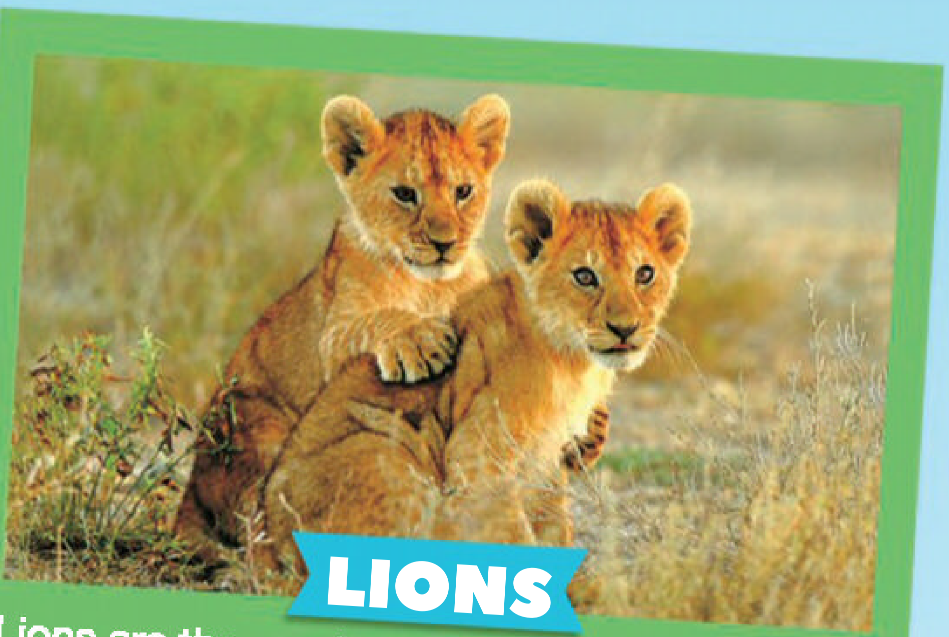
Male cheetahs are more likely to have buds because they live in groups, while female cheetahs are more solitary.

SLOW MOTION GLI/SHUTTERSTOCK; RUDI HULSHOF/SHUTTERSTOCK; HUNG CHUNG CHIH/SHUTTERSTOCK; DANG DUMRONG/SHUTTERSTOCK; WILD MEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; STU PORTER/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANNA OM/SHUTTERSTOCK; THEODORE MATTAS/SHUTTERSTOCK; NUWAT PHANSUWAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK; AFRICA STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK



GIRAFFES

Female giraffes are selective when choosing their crew. They form small groups within the larger group they live with.



LIONS

Lions are the most social of the big cats! They live with up to 30 potential friends in groups called prides.

OWLS

Owls will roost — or find a nesting place — together to keep warm, and so they can both keep an eye on potential predators.

PENGUINS

A pack of penguins loves playing around in the water. You'll see them dive in and swim as if they're racing each other, plus they love doing water stunts.

Pets Make the Best Friends! Here's why!

All they want to do is hang out with you! Seriously, they'll never need to check their schedule to set up a time for a hangout.

They get so excited to see you! Nothing beats the greeting you get from your pet when you get home after a long day at school.

They make you laugh! And it doesn't even have to be intentional — maybe they're just playing with their favorite toy or making a weird face.

They know you better than you know yourself! Doesn't it feel like your pet can read your mind sometimes?

They give the best snuggles! Sometimes you just need a good cuddle on the couch.

They make us happier! When you're in a bad mood, hanging out with your pet can give you an instant positivity boost.

They're protective of you! No matter their size, they act like it's their duty to protect you!

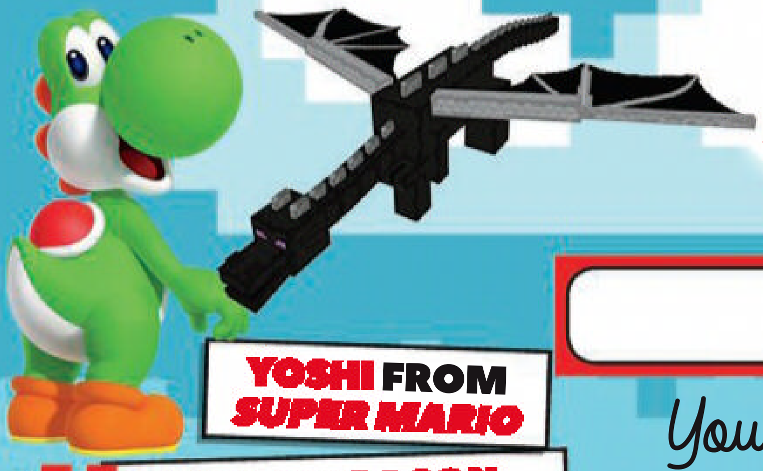
They love you unconditionally! You pet will always think you're the best!

Animal Tales'

VIDEO GAM

SHOWD

You're going to want to



YOSHI FROM **SUPER MARIO**

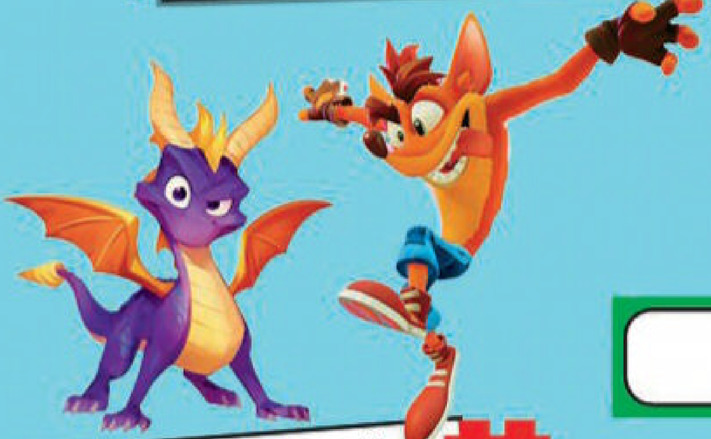
VS

ENDER DRAGON FROM **MINECRAFT**

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:



SPYRO FROM **SPYRO THE DRAGON**

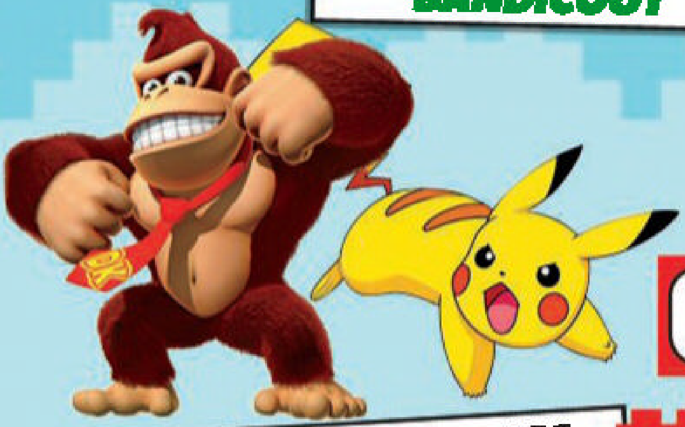
VS

CRASH FROM **CRASH BANDICOOT**

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:



DONKEY KONG FROM **DONKEY KONG COUNTRY**

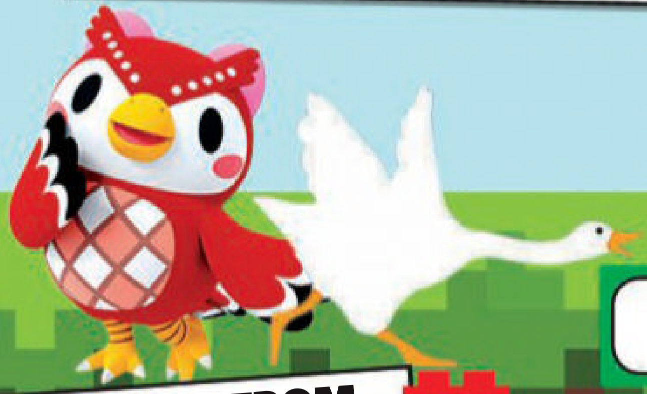
VS

PIKACHU FROM **POKÉMON**

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:



CELESTE FROM **ANIMAL CROSSING**

VS

GOOSE FROM **UNTITLED GOOSE GAME**

Your pick:

NINTENDO (8); SONY INTERACTIVE ENTERTAINMENT; ACTIVISION; INSOMNIAC GAMES (2); PANIC INC.; SONY; ROVIO ENTERTAINMENT; EPIC GAMES

E CREATURE
OWN!

pause your game for this!

DIRECTIONS: For each bracketed pair, pick the cooler character. Repeat with each pairing on both pages until you get your answer in the middle.

RED FROM *ANGRY BIRDS* VS **SONIC FROM *SONIC THE HEDGEHOG***

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:

LOOT LLAMA FROM *FORTNITE* VS **KIRBY FROM *KIRBY STAR ALLIES***

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:

ORI FROM *ORI AND THE WILL OF THE WISPS* VS **RATCHET FROM *RATCHET & CLANK***

Your pick:

VS

Your pick:

EPONA FROM *THE LEGEND OF ZELDA* VS **FOX MCCLOUD FROM *STAR FOX***

Your pick:

Make Narwhal BALLOONS!

Let these balloons inspire your next party theme — or just make one to brighten up your room!

DIRECTIONS:

1 Cut out the stencils and enlarge as directed.

2 Use the stencils to cut out each narwhal detail from your paper.

3 Curve the horn piece into shape and glue it to seal. Fold the tabs inward.

4 Place the pearl pieces onto the horn in a swirl pattern.

5 Glue the two white pieces in place on each eye.

6 Blow up the balloon.

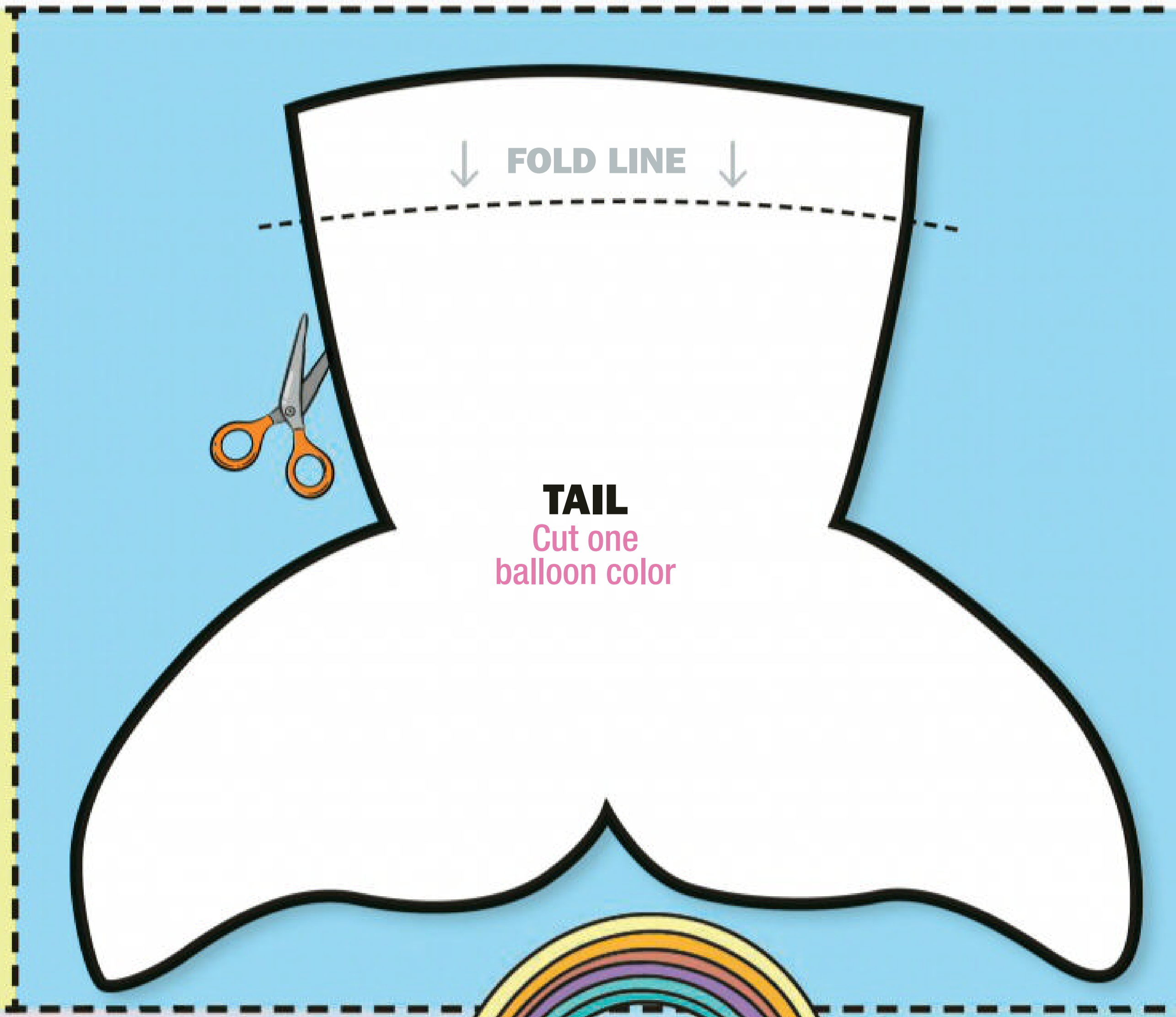
7 Use the double-sided tape to attach the eyes, cheeks, mouth, tail and horn onto the balloon.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO MAKE ONE:

- 12x 12-inch sheets of scrapbook paper in black, white and pink
- balloon
- paper that matches the balloon
- 97-count Ms. Sparkle & Co. Paperie Pearls
- scissors
- glue stick
- double-sided tape

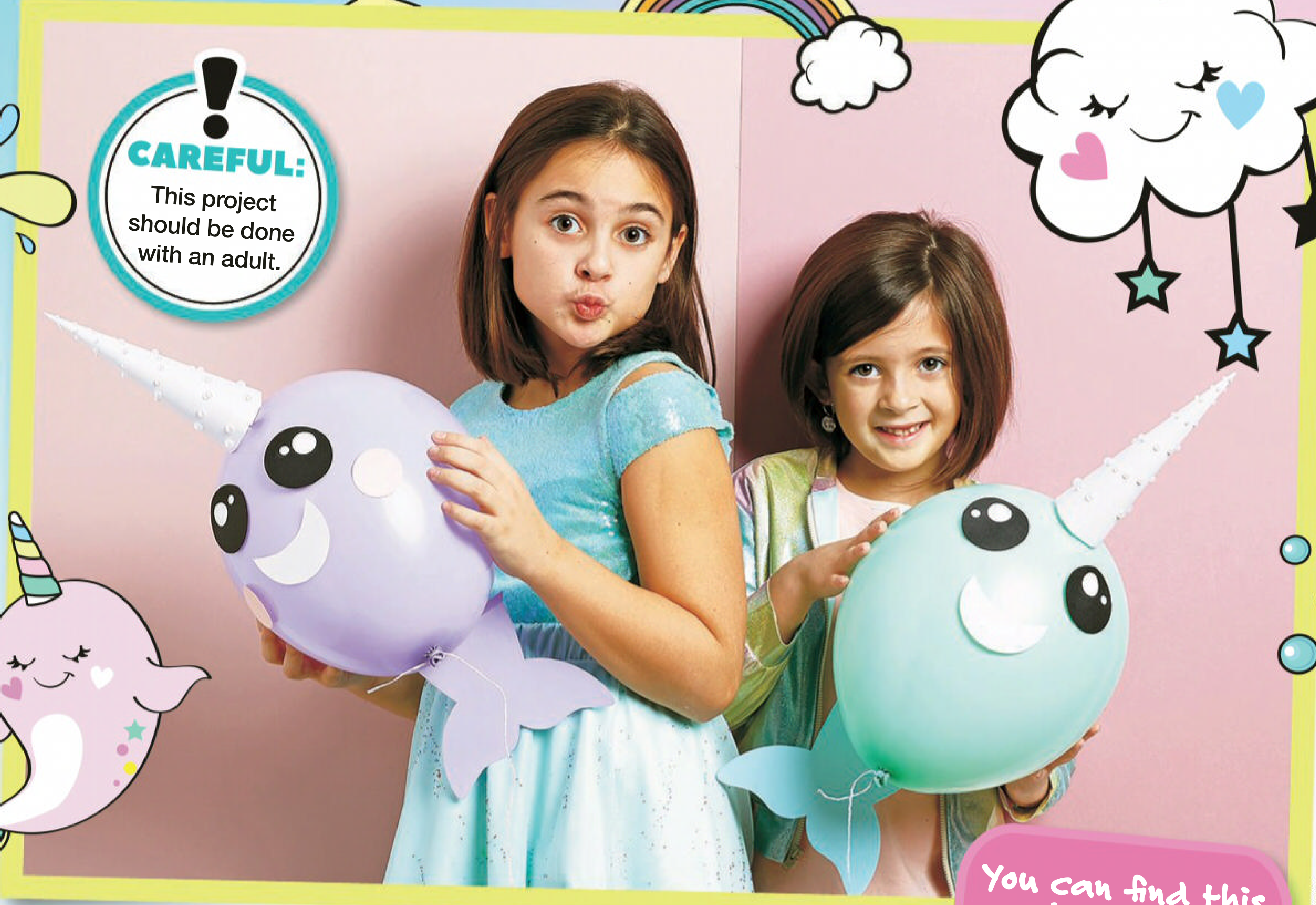
PATTERNS

Cut out and increase patterns to 145%



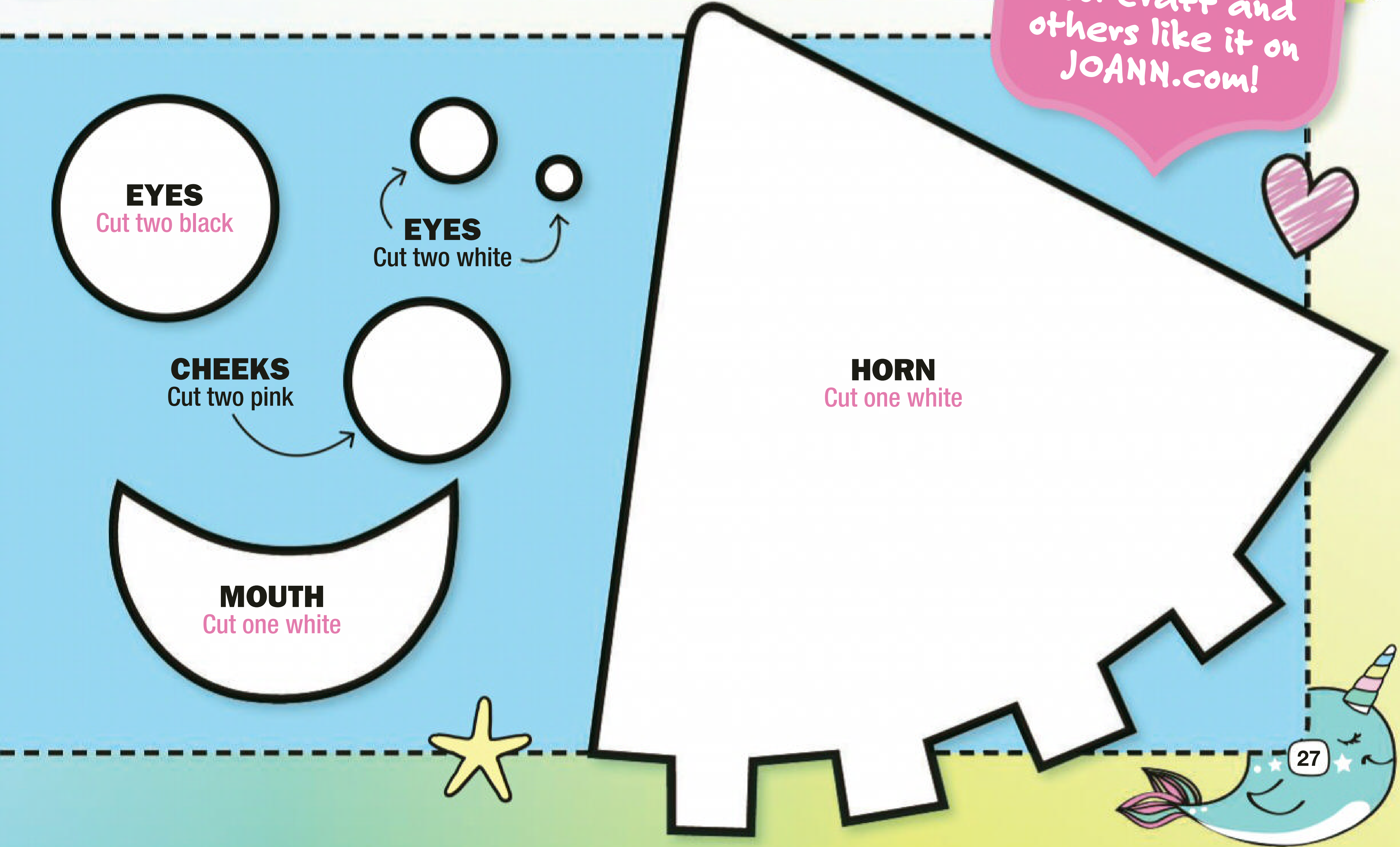
TAIL
Cut one balloon color

CAREFUL: This project should be done with an adult.



JOANN

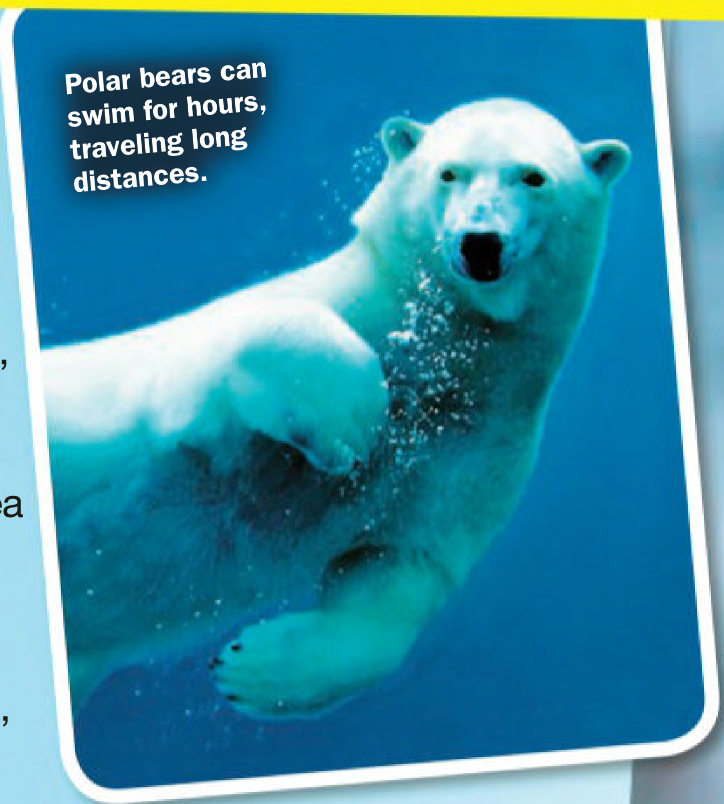
You can find this cool craft and others like it on JOANN.com!


EYES
Cut two black
EYES
Cut two white
CHEEKS
Cut two pink
MOUTH
Cut one white
HORN
Cut one white

WE ♥ Polar

Learn more about these marine mammals!

Have you ever dreamed of exploring the icy cold Arctic? That's what polar bears do every day! The *cool* creatures can be found in Canada, Alaska, Norway, Greenland and Russia. We know they spend most of their time traveling around on sea ice and hunting for their favorite foods, but we talked to Dylan McCart, from Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat in Ontario, Canada, to learn more!



Polar bears can swim for hours, traveling long distances.

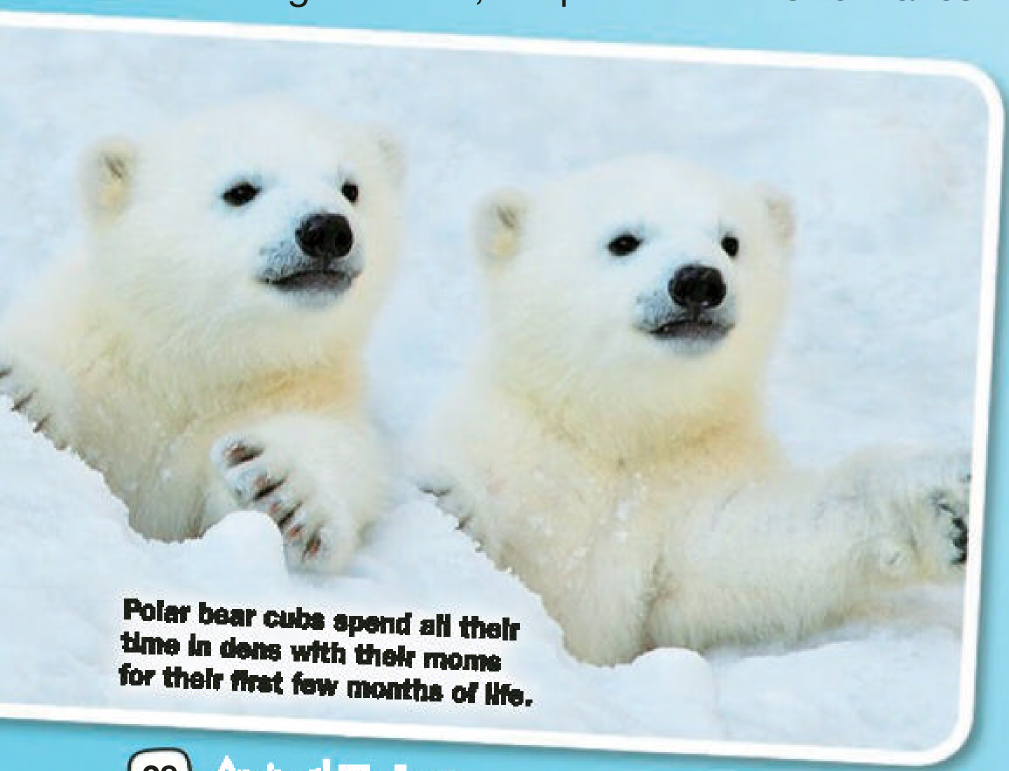
SPECIAL SIZE

You may be surprised to find out that polar bears are the biggest of all the bears (with brown bears coming in a close second). "Polar bears are the largest bear species in the world," Dylan tells us. "A full-grown male polar bear will weigh about 1,200 pounds and stand around 9 feet tall." Females aren't quite as big — they're usually half the size of males.

They both use their size to their advantage. Having large paws makes them strong swimmers and their large size makes them intimidating predators. Though interestingly, polar bears don't walk along land and hunt. They search for seals under the sea ice, using their sensitive noses to locate them.

FUR FACTS

Another interesting thing about polar bear is that they *don't* have white fur. Yep, you read that correctly. Even though polar bears appear white-as-snow in photos, there's more to their coats than meets the eye. Polar bears actually have black skin and clear fur. "When it's layered on itself, it appears to be white," Dylan explains. But that's not the only amazing thing about their fur. "Polar bear fur is also hollow," Dylan says. "This helps keep their body heat in so they can stay warm in the cold Arctic." It makes it easier for them to blend in with their snowy



Polar bear cubs spend all their time in dens with their moms for their first few months of life.

EVAURBAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; SYLVIE BOUCHARD/SHUTTERSTOCK; ISABEL KENDZIOR/SHUTTERSTOCK; ANTHENEUM BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS; SIMON & SCHUSTER BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS; FIRST SECOND; CROWN

Bears!

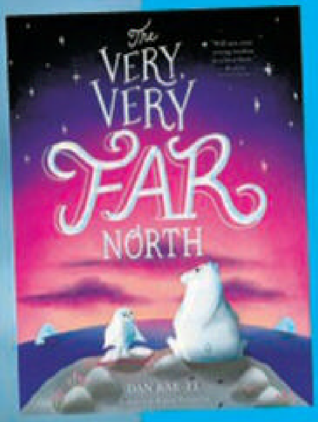
habitats, too!

HELP OUT

Polar bears spend all their time walking on huge ice sheets that carry them across many miles in search of food. Due to rising temperatures, these ice sheets are starting to melt. "As it gets warmer in the Arctic, it slowly changes the habitat of polar bears," Dylan informs us. "This gives them less time to hunt for seals on the ice, and therefore negatively affects the species." We don't want that to happen, and we're sure you don't either — so it's a good thing there are ways to help them out. "You can help conserve the species by making small changes in your life to reduce your carbon footprint (or amount of carbon dioxide you indirectly produce), like using less water and walking places," Dylan suggests. "Polar bears need our help to save their natural habitat!" 🐾

Read Polar Bear Stories!

If you love these cool creatures, check out these books!


The Very Very Far North
Dan Bar-El

The Very, Very Far North

by Dan Bar-El

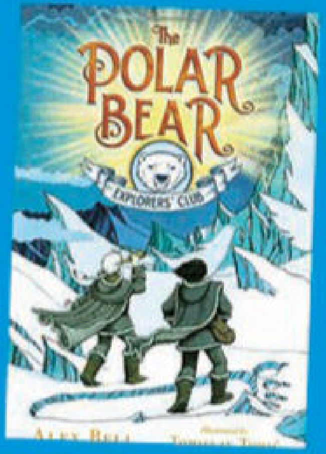
This book tells the story of Duane, a sweet and curious young polar bear who goes on an Arctic adventure and makes lots of friends along the way. $16, bookshop.org

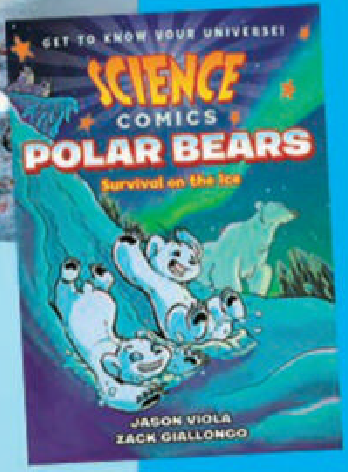
The Polar Bear Explorers' Club

by Alex Bell

Stella Starflake Pearl and her explorer pals wanted to trek through snowy icelands looking for animals. Find out what happens when they get separated from the rest of their expedition!

$10, amazon.com


The Polar Bear
Explorers' Club


Get to know your universe!
Science Comics
Polar Bears
Survival on the Ice
Jason Viola
Zack Giallongo

Polar Bears: Survival on the Ice

by Jason Viola and Zack Giallongo

If you're a fan of graphic novels, this book is for you! It's basically a non-fiction comic that'll teach you all about polar bears.

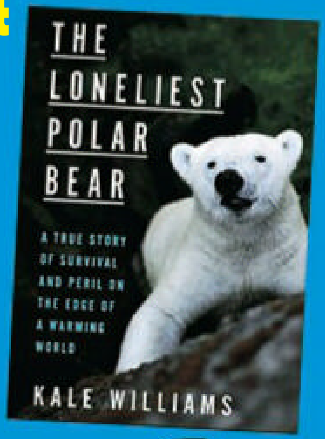
$20, bn.com

The Loneliest Polar Bear

by Kale Williams

This book tells a true story! It chronicles the life of an abandoned polar bear cub named Nora and the people who saved her.

$14, target.com


The Loneliest Polar Bear
A true story of survival and peril on the edge of a warming world
Kale Williams

HOLIDAY WISH LIST!

Want to unwrap awesome animal toys? We've got some suggestions!

FRIENDSHIPCOLLAR
FRIENDSHIPCOLLAR

IF YOUR PET IS YOUR BFF ...

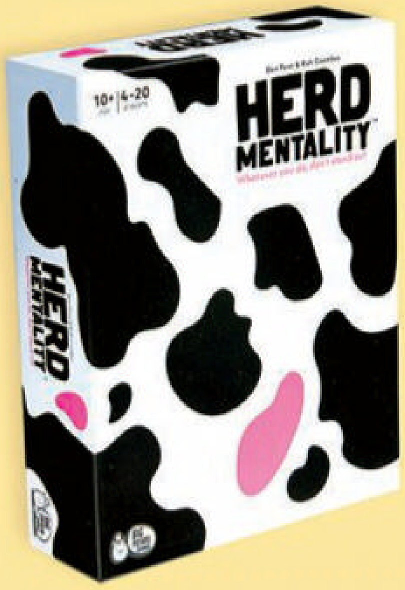
You need these friendship accessories! You'll get a pet collar for your furry friend and a matching bracelet for yourself.

Mermaid Tails FriendshipCollar, $40, friendshipcollar.com

IF YOU LOVE GAME NIGHT ...

Add this board game to your collection! As a group, all the players will be asked a question and the goal is to answer how you think everyone else — a.k.a. the herd — will.

Herd Mentality, $30, amazon.com


HERD MENTALITY
10+
4-20

STEM EXPERIMENT KIT
STEM
MY ROBOTIC PET
TUMBLING HEDGEHOG
THAMES & KOSMOS
172

IF YOU ENJOY EXPERIMENTS ...

This robotic pet is for you! After you build the 172-piece hedgehog, you can program it to tumble, bristle its spines, roll into a ball and so much more.

My Robotic Pet Tumbling Hedgehog, $30, target.com

IF YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE A REAL PET ...

Try a virtual one! You'll get to take care of your Tamagotchi creature — making sure its fed, sending it on playdates and even petting it.

Tamagotchi Pix, $40, amazon.com

Tamagotchi

IF YOU'RE OBSESSED WITH *MY LITTLE PONY* ...

We're sure you've watched the new Netflix movie over and over, so why not ask for this Sunny Starscout toy? It sings — her hit song "Gonna Be My Day," of course — and skates around.

My Little Pony: A New Generation Sing 'N Skate Sunny Starscout, $53, target.com

THE YOUNG SCIENTISTS CLUB
13 ANIMAL ACTIVITIES!
FUTURE VETERINARIAN

IF YOU WANT TO WORK WITH ANIMALS ONE DAY …

This Future Veterinarian kit deserves a spot on your wish list! You'll learn about animal anatomy, find out how to read x-rays and build a stethoscope.

The Young Scientists Club Future Veterinarian Kit, $17, gamestop.com

IF YOU'RE A HORSE LOVER …

Groom your own pretty pony! With this styling head, you get to brush your horse's mane and add in colorful hair extensions, bejeweled clips and more.

Breyer Horses Mane Beauty Unicorn Styling Head, $16, amazon.com

Airbrush Plush
Wash & Repeat!
Puppy
4 COLORS! 120 STENCILS!

IF CRAFTING IS YOUR FAVORITE HOBBY …

You'll love customizing this plush puppy! It comes with an airbrush, stencils and paints in cool colors.

Style 4 Ever Airbrush Plush Puppy, $45, amazon.com

IF YOU'RE ALWAYS BOUNCING OFF THE WALLS …

Bounce off this unicorn jumper instead! You can use it indoors or outdoors — with a parent's permission, of course. If you have a sibling, tell them to ask for one as well so you can race.

Waddle Large Pink Unicorn Bouncer Inflatable Hopper, $22, walmart.com

IF YOU LOVE BEING COZY …

This stuffed animal will make the perfect cuddle buddy! You can even make a wish on its shooting star design each night before you fall asleep.

Cats Vs Pickles 20-Inch Hugger Shooting Starla, $28, walmart.com

IF YOU PLAY *ANIMAL CROSSING* ALL THE TIME …

This craft kit will give you all the supplies you need to make keychains of your favorite character from the video game.

Aquabeads Animal Crossing : New Horizons Set, $15, amazon.com

SPONSORED

IF YOU'RE A *GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE* FAN …

Standing over two feet tall, this awesome dollhouse is packed with exciting features to discover. With its cat-inspired shape and colorful details, it looks just like the one from the show!

Gabby's Purrfect Dollhouse, $65, Available at Most Major Retailers

DREAMWORKS GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE © 2021 DREAMWORKS ANIMATION LLC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Adorable animal OF THE MONTH

PICK THE NEXT WINNER!

CUT OUT AND KEEP!

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! It's hard to sneak up on a rabbit because they can see almost 360 degrees around them!

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! Just like humans can be left-handed or right-handed, kittens can favor their left or right paw. Watch them closely to see!

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! This cutie is a Bernese Mountain dog. They have silky fur that always comes in three colors — black, white and rust.

Animal Tales

FUN FACT! Though this foal (a.k.a. a young horse) is resting now, they're actually able to gallop as soon as 24 hours after birth.

SEND US YOUR VOTE!

Cut out and mail to *Animal Tales*, Adorable Animal of the Month, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004 or email your vote to mail@animaltalesmag.com.

Vote for your favorite!

○ **RABBIT**

○ **KITTEN**

○ **PUPPY**

○ **HORSE**

KURIT AFSHEN/SHUTTERSTOCK; RICHARD PETERSON/SHUTTERSTOCK; KUZINA NATALI/SHUTTERSTOCK; MIRAS WONDERLAND/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK

The meaning behind your ANIMAL DREAMS!

Find the creature you've been dreaming about to get your explanation!

UNICORN

Unicorns symbolize that you should be hopeful in a current situation.

GIRAFFE

Seeing a giraffe in dreamland means you need to look at the bigger picture.

FISH

Swimming fish are trying to tell you about a new idea.

BEAR

The forest animal symbolizes inner strength and the ability to recover quickly.

CAT

Unfortunately, these felines often signify bad luck or misfortune.

BULL

Seeing a bull while you're snoozing means it's time for you to take a stand.

HORSE

Hate to break it to you, but your dreams are telling you to get off your high horse.

OTTER

Take this message from otters: happiness and good fortune.

MONKEY

If you see a monkey swinging from a tree, you're feeling troubled.

LION

A lion in your dream is there to let you know it's time to take charge.

FROG

There's a potential change coming your way, according to this frog.

ELEPHANT

An elephant is a sign that you need to learn patience and understanding.

DINOSAUR

Dream dinosaurs are trying to tell you to let go of old ways of thinking.

DRAGON

If you're seeing a dragon, you tend to get carried away by your emotions.

SHARK

Are you feeling angry? Check yourself because sharks usually signify hidden hostility.

DOG

A barking dog is trying to tell you that you're barking too many orders.

KANGAROO

A kangaroo may be trying to tell you you're too overprotective.

RABBITS

According to the furry friend in your dream, you should look on the bright side.

LEOPARD

Leopards suggest that persistence will help you get through something difficult.

HIPPOPOTAMUS

Hippos are in your dream to symbolize hidden strengths.

ICONIC BESTIARY/SHUTTERSTOCK

Beary Special PAPER DOLLS!

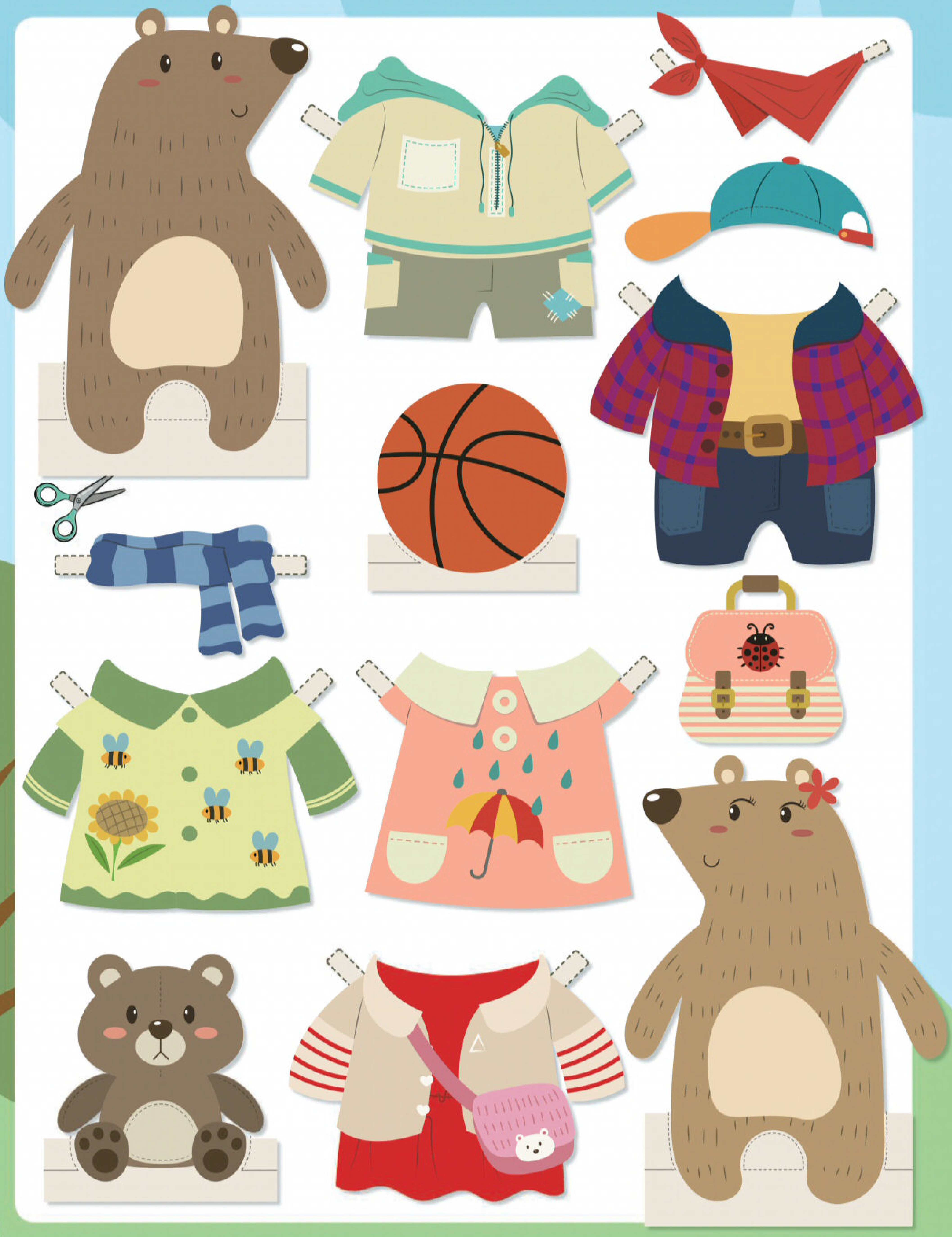
Cut them out and get ready play!

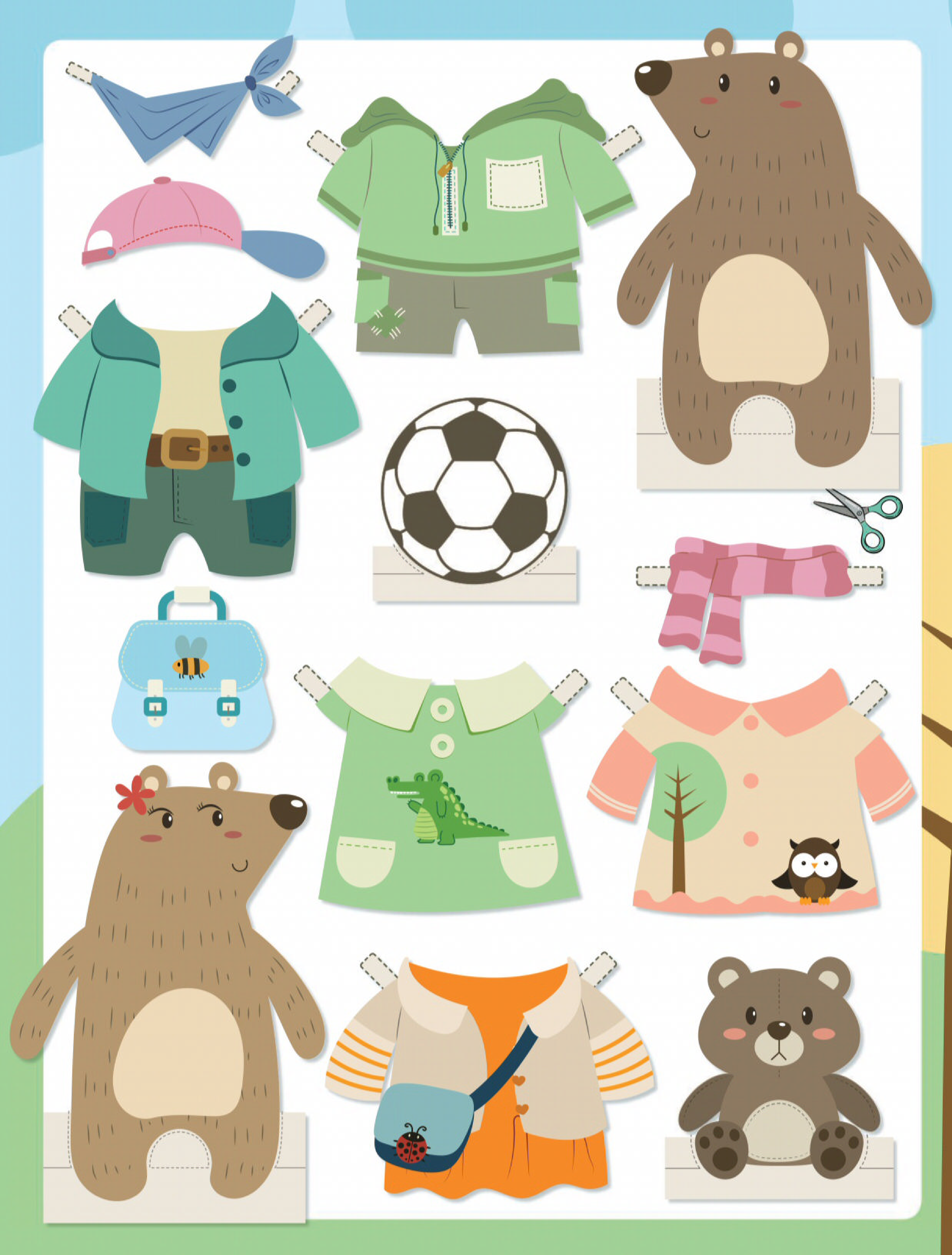
DIRECTIONS:

1 Cut out both of the bears and all their clothing, making sure you don't snip off any of the white tabs.

2 To make the bears stand upright, cut out the half-circle in between the legs. After, fold the rectangle at their feet.

3 Attach the clothing to the bears by folding the white tabs behind them. You can change outfits as many times as you want!





PAPER DOLL CERTIFICATE

Fill in the information about your new doll below.
(You get to make it up yourself!)

Name: ______________________ **Birthday:** ____________

Personality: ______________________

Likes: ______________________

Dislikes: ______________________

Favorite outfit: ______________________

Belongs to: ______________________

PAPER DOLL CERTIFICATE

Fill in the information about your new doll below.
(You get to make it up yourself!)

Name: ______________________ Birthday: ____________

Personality: ______________________

Likes: ______________________

Dislikes: ______________________

Favorite outfit: ______________________

Belongs to: ______________________

NUTKINS J./SHUTTERSTOCK

Why Penguins Are So FLIPPIN' COOL!

They're birds who don't fly — and there's so much more to them!

- They're a bit of a mystery — scientists can't agree how many species of penguins exist. They believe it's between 17 and 19.

- Penguins are almost all found in the Southern Hemisphere, except the Galápagos species.

- **Penguins can't fly, but they're excellent swimmers.**

- Before diving into the water, they jump 6 to 9 feet in the air to help they swim extra fast.

- They spend 75% of their lives in the water.

- **Penguins travel across the ice using a technique called tobogganing, which is where they lay on their stomachs and propel themselves forward. So they're basically sledding!**

- When they're first born, penguins have a coat of fluffy down feathers.

SHUTTERSTOCK

- Penguins live in large groups known as colonies, rookeries or waddles.
- **A group of penguins swimming together is called a raft.**
- When penguins were first discovered, they were referred to as "strange geese."
- Their black and white tuxedo look acts as camouflage.
- **They have a gland that removes salt from their bloodstream, which means they can drink ocean water.**
- They're very resourceful — they create their nests out of whatever rocks and stones are in the area.
- They have a thick layer of blubber that keeps them warm.

- **Their feathers are coated in oil, which makes them waterproof.**
- Once a year, they molt. That means they shed all of their feathers.
- They can't swim or fish until the feathers grow back, which takes about 2-3 weeks.
- **Penguins swallow fish whole. Why? Because they're unable to taste them anyway.**
- They don't have teeth, only spines that face backward to help them swallow their fish food.
- They're able to sleep standing up.
- **Gentoo, rockhopper and chinstrap penguins mate for life.**
- Most penguins lay two eggs per year, though emperor penguins only lay one.
- Penguin couples use to distinct calls to locate each other when they've been separated in a crowd.
- **Emperor penguins can hold their breath for 20 minutes.**
- They huddle together in a giant group hug when they're cold.

Walking in a winter wonderland!

Animal Tales

SHUTTERSTOCK

Animal Tales

CECILIE BERGAN STUEDAL/SHUTTERSTOCK

HAPPY
Hanukkah

SHEILA FITZGERALD/SHUTTERSTOCK

SANTA PAWS

ARE COMING TO TOWN!

Animal Tales

RAWPIXEL.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK

Animal Tales

SHUTTERSTOCK

BE COOL!
Animal Tales

ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK; BINKSKI/SHUTTERSTOCK

ONDREJ PROSICKY/SHUTTERSTOCK

Naps over everything!
Animal Tales

KUZINA NATALI/SHUTTERSTOCK

All BUNDLED up!

VALENTINA RAZUMOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK

HAPPY NEW YEAR

SUSAN SCHMITZ/SHUTTERSTOCK

Animal Tales

CAT NAPS!

Learn more about kittens' sleeping habits!

- Cats typically sleep between 12-16 hours a day.

- Older cats sleep a few hours longer to conserve energy. They can sleep for up to 20 hours per day.

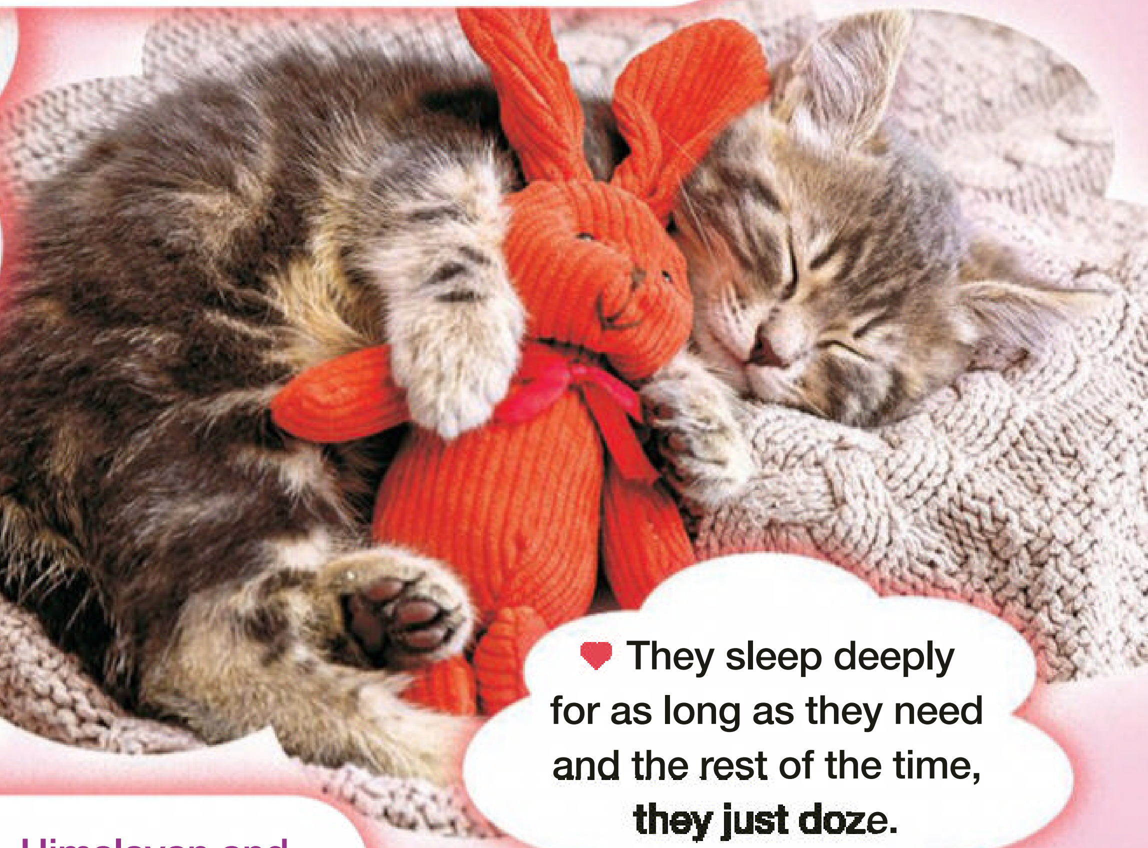
- There's no need to be concerned about how long your kitty sleeps — unless it changes drastically. Then you should call your vet for a checkup.

- Cats are crepuscular, which means their bodies naturally want to be awake at dusk and dawn and to sleep at night and during the day.

- Cats can doze off in pretty much any position, even sitting upright.

- They're crepuscular because of how they hunt in the wild, but many pet cats will adjust to their humans' sleeping schedule.

- You can tell when cats are deeply sleeping by their position. They'll be curled up and their eyes will be shut tight.



- About three quarters of the time cats spend asleep, they're just snoozing, or lightly sleeping.

- They sleep deeply for as long as they need and the rest of the time, **they just doze**.

- Researchers believe that cats do dream. If their whiskers or paws are twitching, it's a clue that they're in dreamland.

- Persian, Himalayan and Exotic Shorthair are the breeds most likely to snore because they have short noses.

- Cats are keeping track of sounds and smells when they're in the lighter stages of sleep. That way they can stay alert.

- Studies have shown that pet owners who sleep next to their pets have closer relationships with them.

- These felines are more likely to spend the day dozing if the weather is crummy.

- If your cat likes to sleep near you, it's a sign that they fully trust you.

FAM VELD/SHUTTERSTOCK; JEANETTE VIRGINIA
GOGH/SHUTTERSTOCK; BETON STUDIO/
SHUTTERSTOCK (4); ERMOLAEV ALEXANDER/
SHUTTERSTOCK; LIZ CREATIVE STUDIOS/
SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK; INTER
STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK

A Crab's TALE!

Use the word bank to label the ocean animal's body parts!

BODY PARTS:

ANTENNA – Sensory organs, or feelers, that help a crab sense its surroundings

ABDOMEN – A crab's stomach, which is normally wrapped under their body

CARAPACE – A crab's hard upper shell

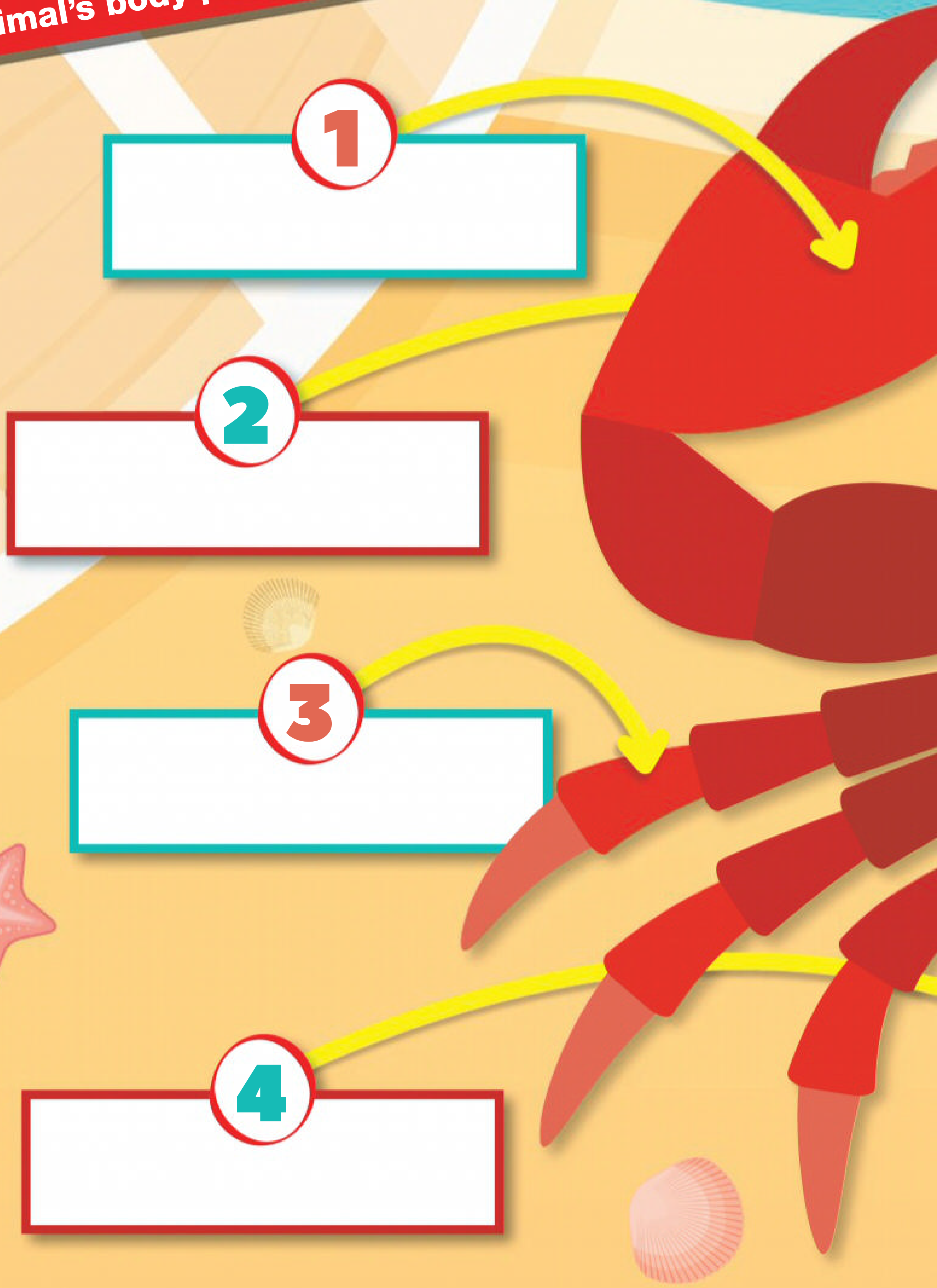
CARPUS – Functions as the crab's elbow

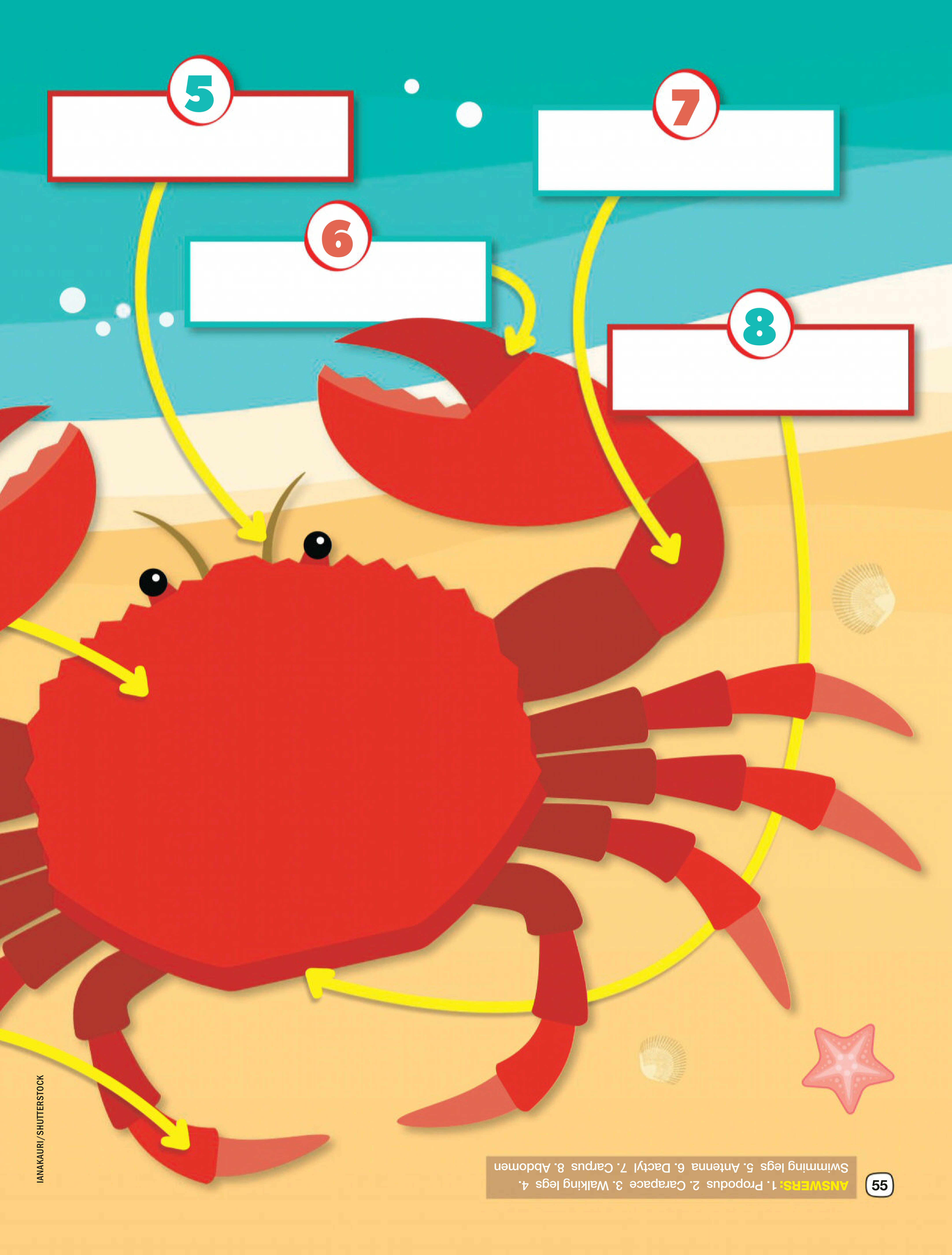
DACTYL – The movable fingerlike section of a crab's claw

PROPODUS – The palm of a crab's claw

SWIMMING LEGS – Shorter back legs that propel a crab through the water

WALKING LEGS – Longer legs that crabs use on land



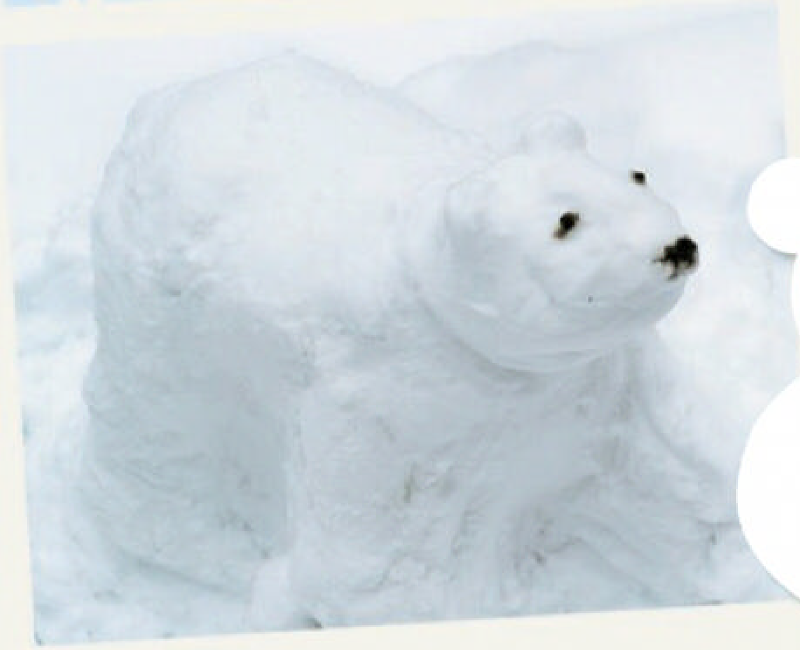


IANAKAURI/SHUTTERSTOCK

ANSWERS: 1. Propodus 2. Carapace 3. Walking legs 4. Swimming legs 5. Antenna 6. Dactyl 7. Carpus 8. Abdomen

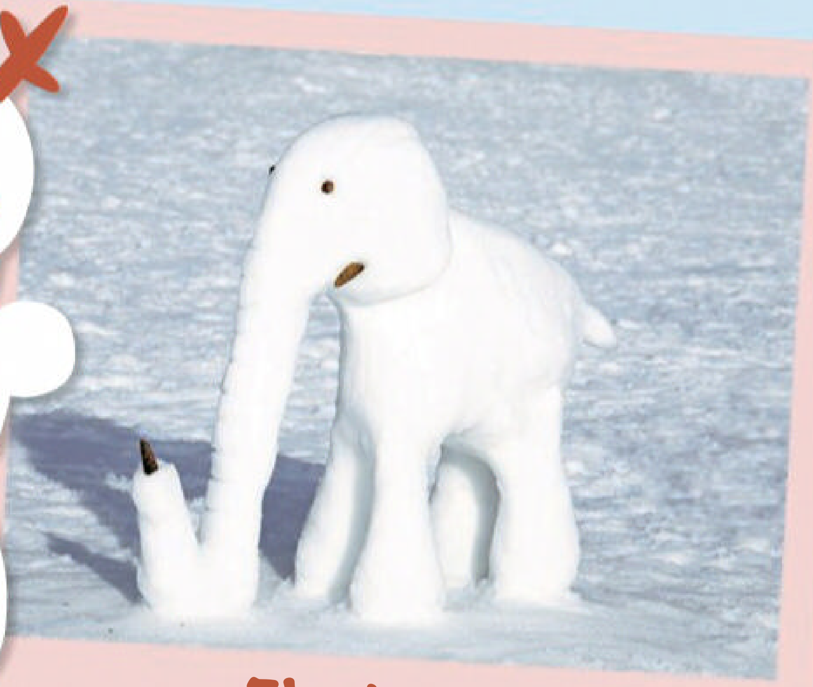
Do you want to build a SNOWMAN?

Let these animal-shaped designs inspire you!



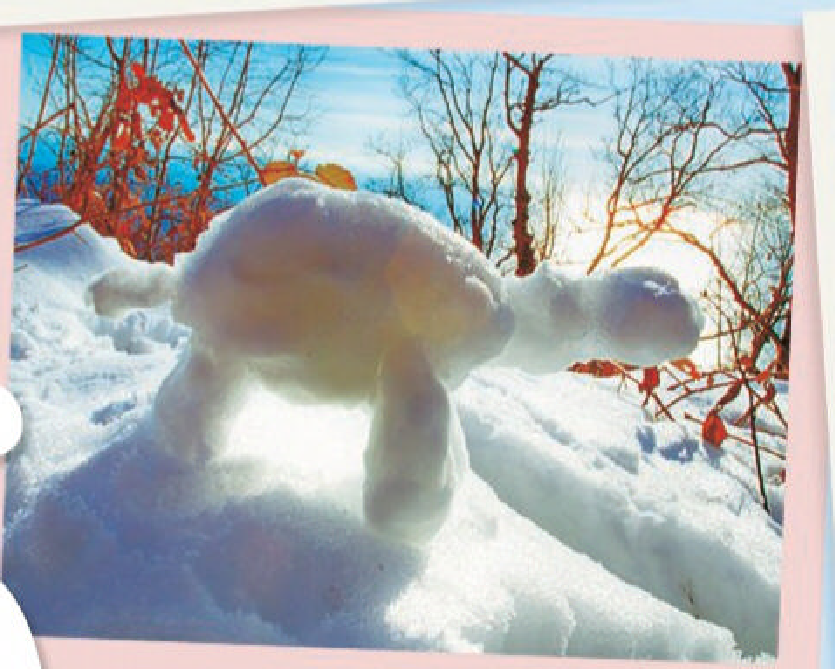
Polar Bear

Start with a round mound of snow for this one and then mold it into the polar bear's body shape.



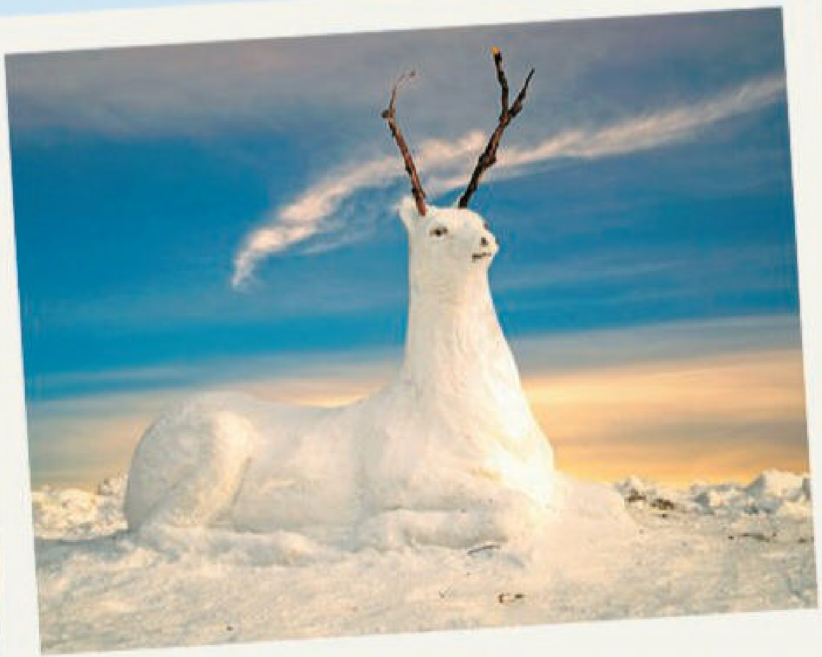
Elephant

The trunk is the hardest thing to make here! If you're having trouble, try forming the long upright part around a baseball bat.



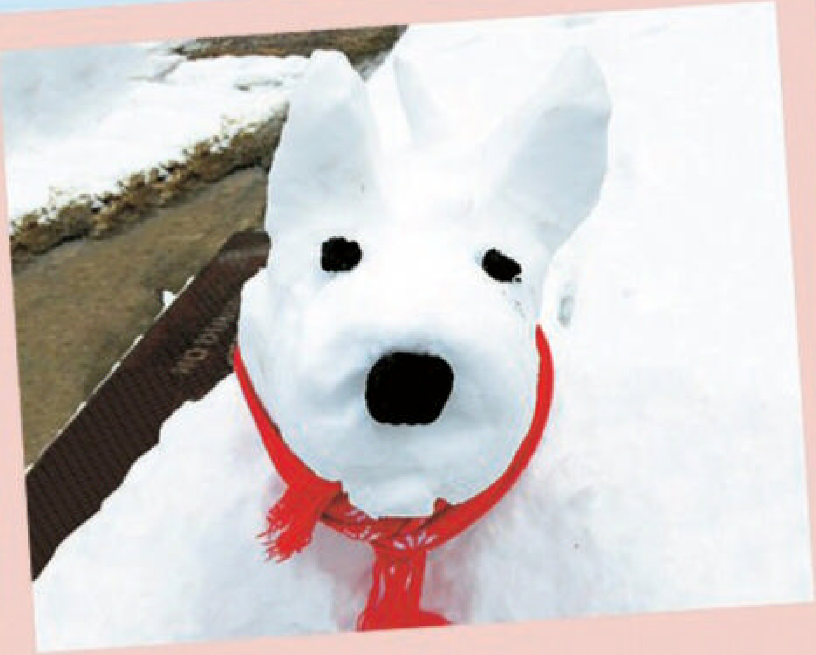
Turtle

You'll need to create sturdy snow legs if you want them to hold up the turtle's body.



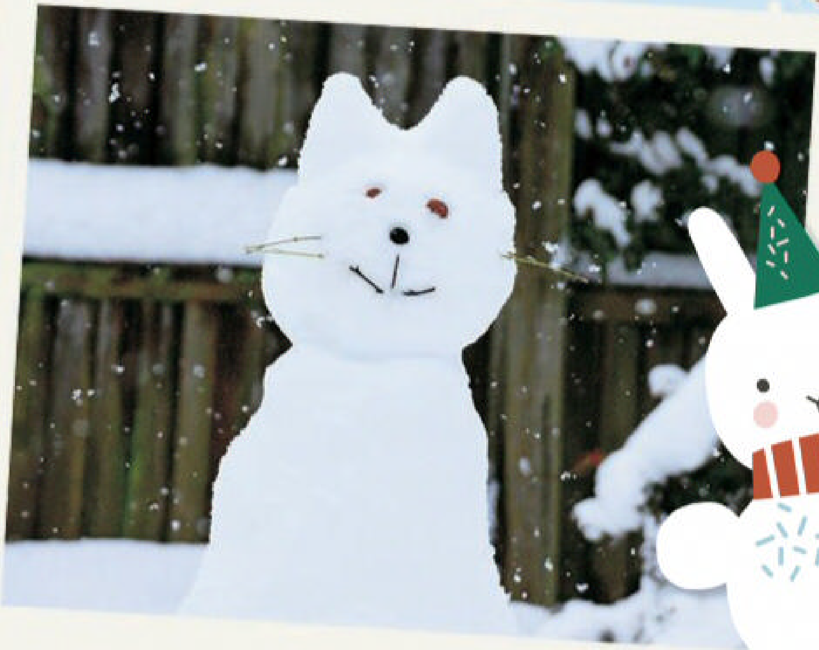
Reindeer

You have to find exactly the right sticks for this one! They need to split into two at the ends.



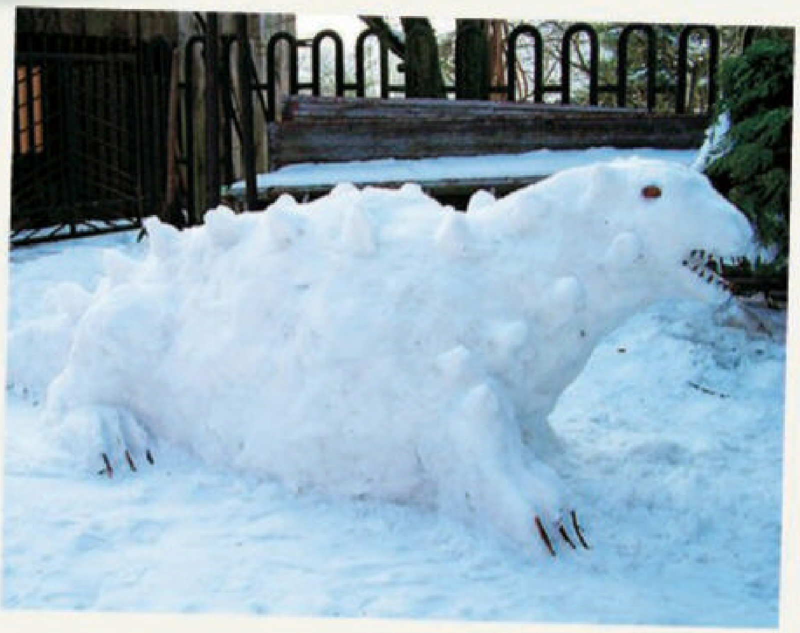
Dog

Don't forget to give your snow dog a tail! If you make it on an angle like this it'll seem like it's wagging.



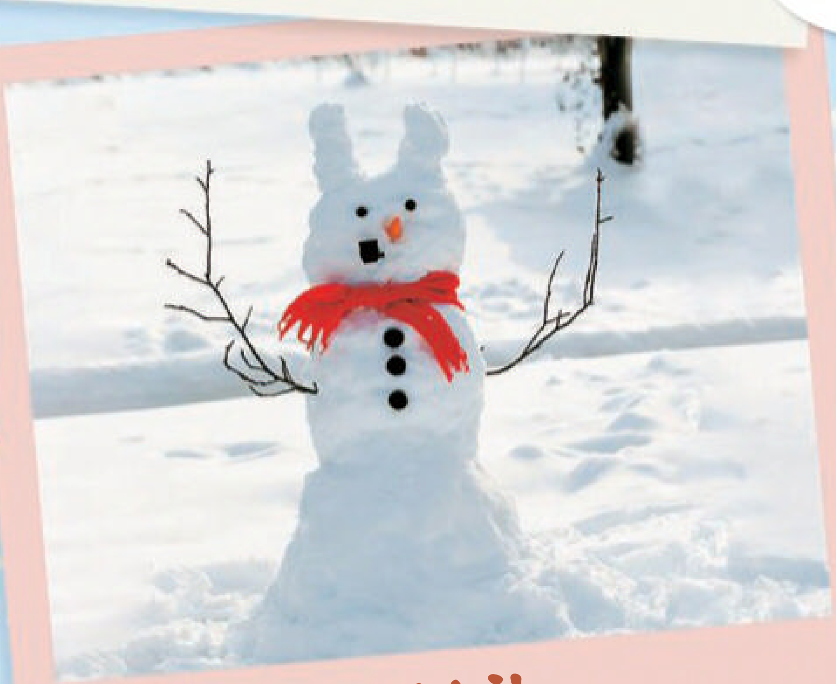
Cat

Short, thin sticks you find in your yard will help you make the kitty's whiskers and mouth.



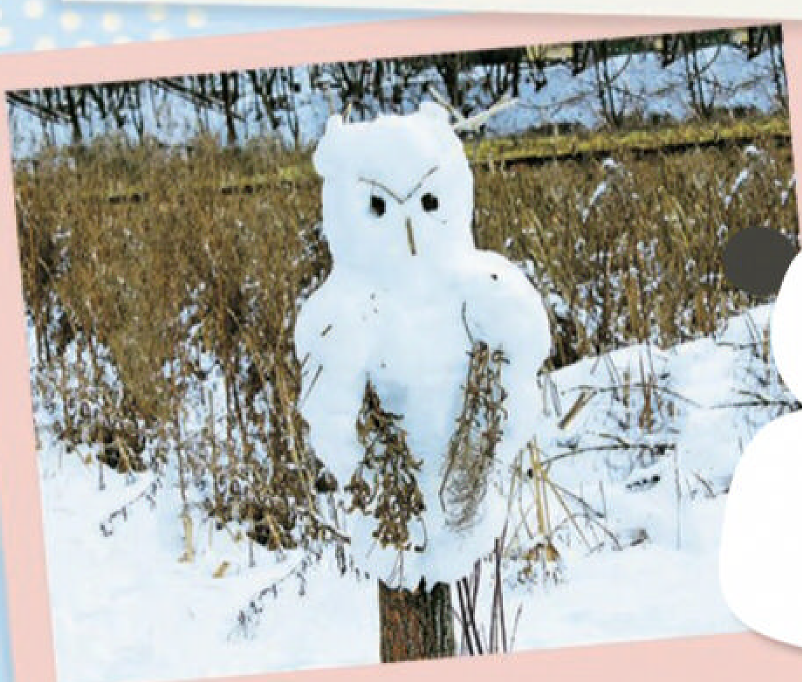
Dinosaur

Shape snow into lots of pointy triangles to give your dino its signature spikes!



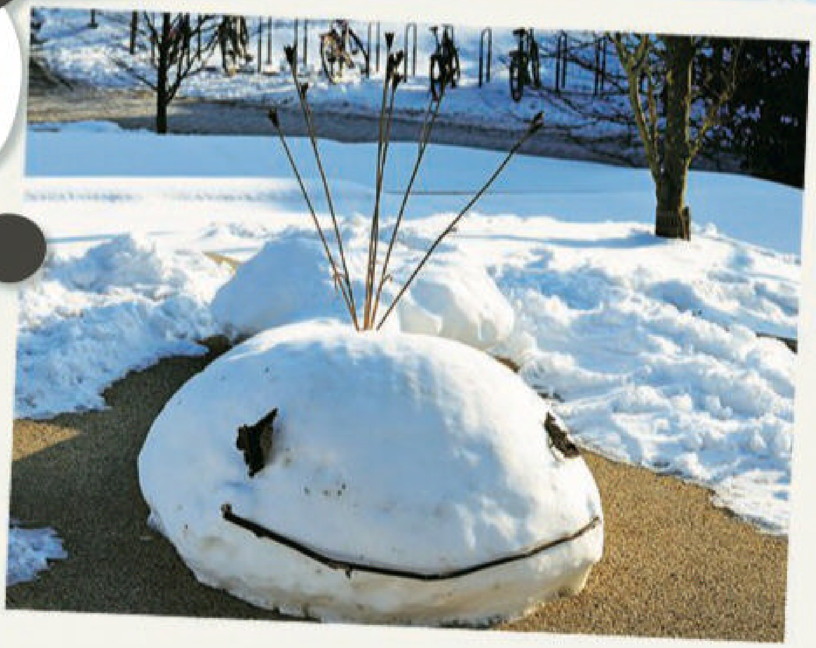
Rabbit

A traditional snowman can be turned into a bunny easily. All you have to do is add the long ears!



Owl

If the plants in your yard have turned brown for the winter, you can use them to give your owl realistic-looking wings.



Whale

The long sticks coming out of the whale's head are like water from its blowhole!

OLGA ANGELOZ/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK (5); MAXMILLIAN CABINET; WENDY VAN OVERSTREET/SHUTTERSTOCK; STUART JAMES WORCS/SHUTTER-STOCK; JULIE CLOPPER/SHUTTERSTOCK; CARMEN HAUSER/SHUTTERSTOCK

What's your REINDEER NAME?

Follow the steps below to find out!

First, FIND THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR FIRST NAME:

A – Candy Cane
B – Blizzard
C – Cinnamon
D – Tinsel
E – Star
F – Lightning
G – Frosty
H – Cookie
I – Shimmer
J – Peppermint
K – Arctic
L – Eggnog
M – Holly
N – Dazzle
O – Cocoa
P – Jolly
Q – Blaze
R – Merry
S – Snowy
T – Joy
U – Jingle
V – Cozy
W – Sparkle
X – Winter
Y – Chestnut
Z – Gingerbread

Next, FIND YOUR BIRTH MONTH:

JANUARY - Flash
FEBRUARY - Lollipop
MARCH - Antlers
APRIL - Bells
MAY - Sugar Cane
JUNE - Mittens
JULY - Claus
AUGUST - Twinkle Lights
SEPTEMBER - Flurry
OCTOBER - Slush
NOVEMBER - Hooves
DECEMBER - Marshmallow

Your reindeer name is:

____

SHUTTERSTOCK

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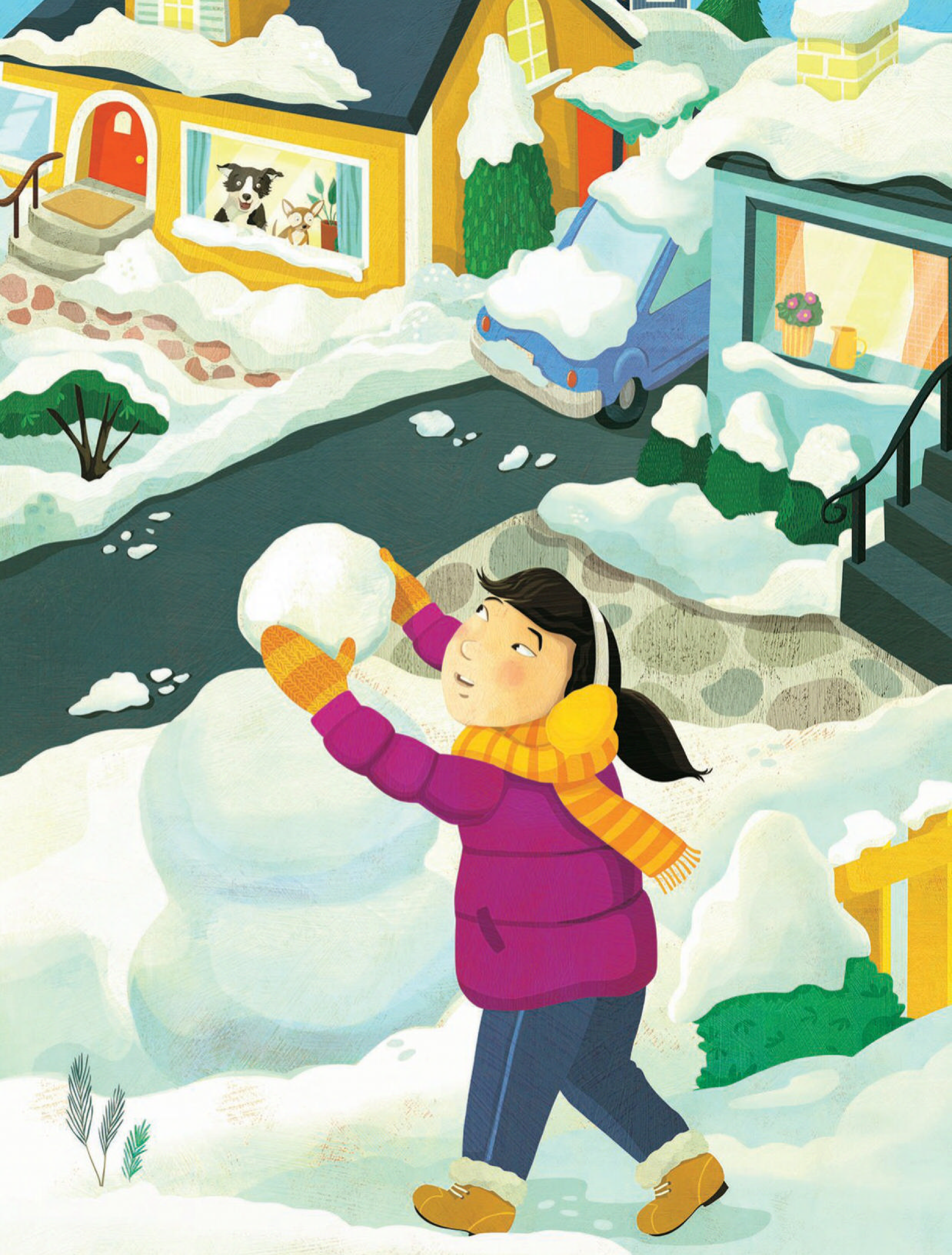


DOGGIES in the WINDOW

A giant snowstorm blew through Esther's hometown three days ago, and it made her notice something interesting happening next door.

Every time she'd been outside — helping her mom shovel the front walkway, having a snowball fight with her friends or making snow angels — she heard barking from her neighbor's house ... lots of it.

On Saturday, while she was building a snowman (because the snow had finally gotten hard enough to really stick together!), the barking seemed to get even louder.

Esther looked up and saw that Max the border collie and Peanut the chihuahua were in their now-usual spot in their front window, watching her play.

"I can practically see their tails wagging from here," Esther muttered to herself. "I wonder why Ms. Hopkins won't let them out."

Ms. Hopkins had been her next door neighbor for about two years now. Esther tried her best to avoid the woman. Not because she'd ever done anything really, but because Mrs. Hopkins is a fifth grade teacher at Brookside Elementary, a.k.a. Esther's school.

Esther's only in the fourth grade, but *everyone* knows Ms. Hopkins. "She's the strictest, meanest teacher in the whole school," the older kids would always warn. There was even a rumor that she made a girl cry on the first day of school, like, every year.

That's why a smile and a wave is the most interaction Esther's ever had with her. But even though Ms. Hopkins has a bad rap at school, Esther was under the impression she loved her dogs. She walks them around the neighborhood at least twice a day (looking surprisingly smiley to do so!), and sometimes Esther sees her in the backyard playing fetch with them. So it didn't really make sense that they were cooped up indoors when they clearly wanted to be let out.

Esther was still thinking about this when she walked into her house later.

"How'd the snowman building go?" her mom asked.

"Good," Esther smiled. "I think it's my best

ILLUSTRATIONS BY LAURA WATSON

one yet!"

"You were certainly out there for a while."

"Yeah, I got a little distracted by the dogs next door," Esther admitted.

"The barking?" her mom questioned. "It's so odd. Ms. Hopkins' dogs don't usually bark like that, right?"

"I haven't heard them like this before," Esther agreed.

"Hmmm," Mom muttered.

Uh-oh, that tone is never good, Esther thought. *She's about to ask me to do something I don't wanna do.*

"Maybe you should go check on Ms. Hopkins," Mom suggested. "It sounds like she might need some help with the dogs."

Suddenly, it became clear why the dogs hadn't been out for a walk. Ms. Hopkins had a cast on her leg.

"From me?!" Esther hated this idea.

"Yeah, why not you?" Mom asked. "You love dogs. You always walk grandpa's rascals, and one of those huskies is bigger than Max and Peanut combined."

"I ..." Esther searched her head for an excuse, but nothing came.

"I know you're scared of Ms. Hopkins, sweetie, but she's really a very nice lady. And I know she loves walking those dogs, so something must be up. Let's be good neighbors and check on her."

"Why don't *we* wait until *we* can go together," Esther suggested.

Her mom gave her a look. "You know I'm working remotely today. I can't step away from my computer."

"But, Mom," Esther whined. "It's so weird to just walk over there when I've never even spoken to her."

"Esther," her mom scolded with just one word.

"Oh, all right," Esther gave in because she knew her mom wouldn't.

That's how she found herself trudging up Ms. Hopkins' front walk and knocking on the door ... with a pit forming in her stomach.

What if she yells at me? What if she makes me cry? Esther worried.

She heard some thumping noises coming towards the door, then it finally swung open. Suddenly, it became clear why the dogs hadn't been out for a walk. Ms. Hopkins had a cast on her leg.

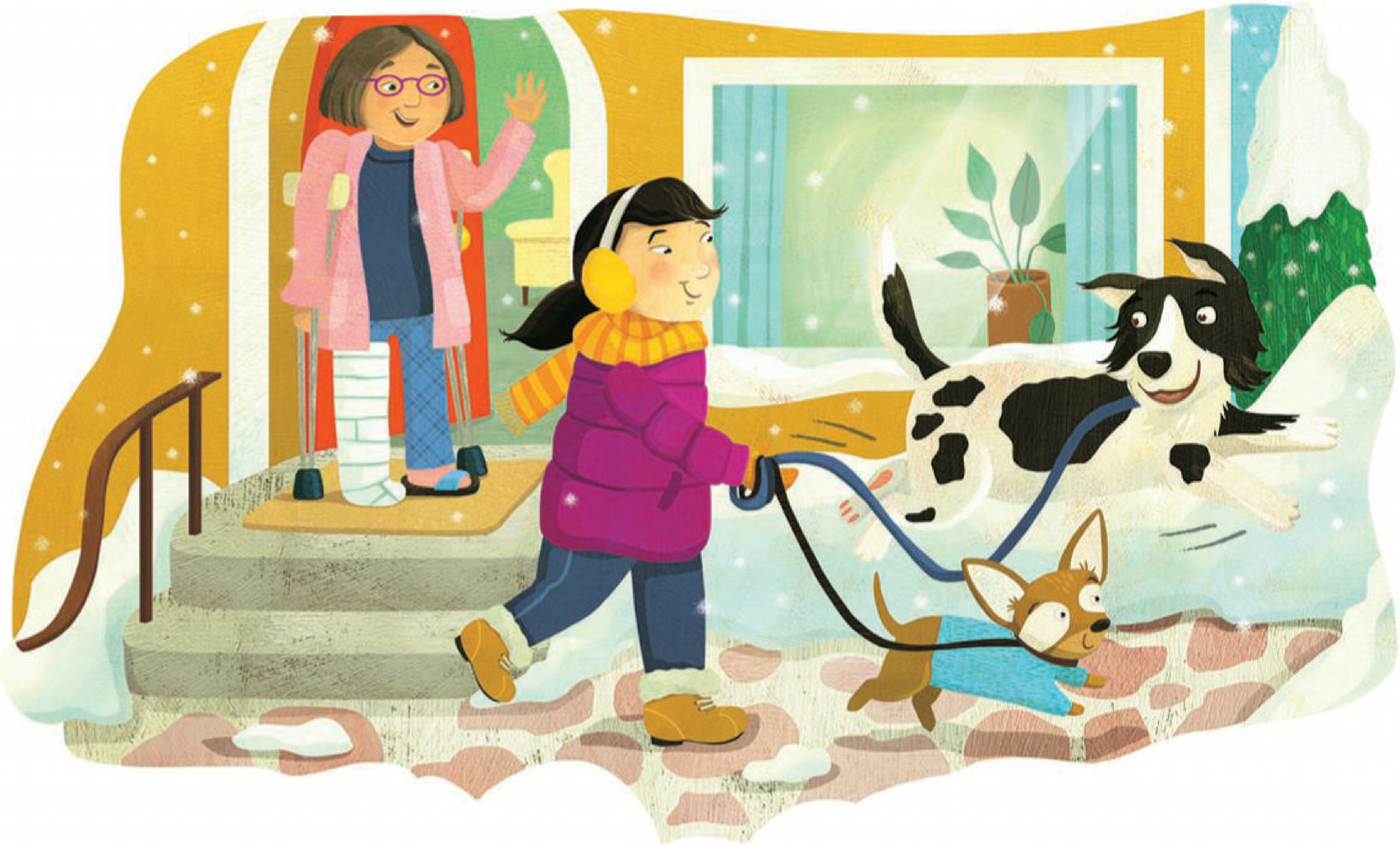
"Hello, Esther," the teacher greeted. "I didn't expect to see you."

"Oh ... um ... yeah .... sorry," Esther stumbled over her words.

"No need to be nervous, dear," Ms. Hopkins smiled. "Can I help you with something?"

"I, um, actually thought I could help you ... with your dogs. They seem to be ..."

"Barking a whole lot," Ms. Hopkins finished Esther's sentence. "Yeah, I broke my leg, slipping on the ice the other day, and I haven't been able to walk them like I usually



do. They're not satisfied with walks in the backyard!"

"I'm so sorry to hear about your leg," Esther said.

"*I'm* sorry that my dogs are disturbing the whole neighborhood. I'll try to let them out back more."

"Or maybe I could walk them for you," Esther suggested. "I walk my grandpa's dogs a lot, so you can trust me. He has two huskies."

Ms. Hopkins grinned. "That would be lovely, Esther. I know they'll really enjoy that. Do you want to come back later or ..."

"I can do it now!" Esther said before Ms. Hopkins even finished speaking, then she realized who she was speaking to. "Oops! Sorry, for interrupting."

"It's fine," Ms. Hopkins replied. "We aren't in school. You don't need to be so formal!"

Maybe Ms. Hopkins isn't so bad after all, Esther thought.

That was pretty much confirmed minutes later when Ms. H brought the leashed dogs over. "When you're done walking them, I've got a fresh batch of chocolate chip cookies I can repay you with," she said.

"Those are my favorite!" Esther smiled.

"Perfect, only the best for such a good neighbor!"

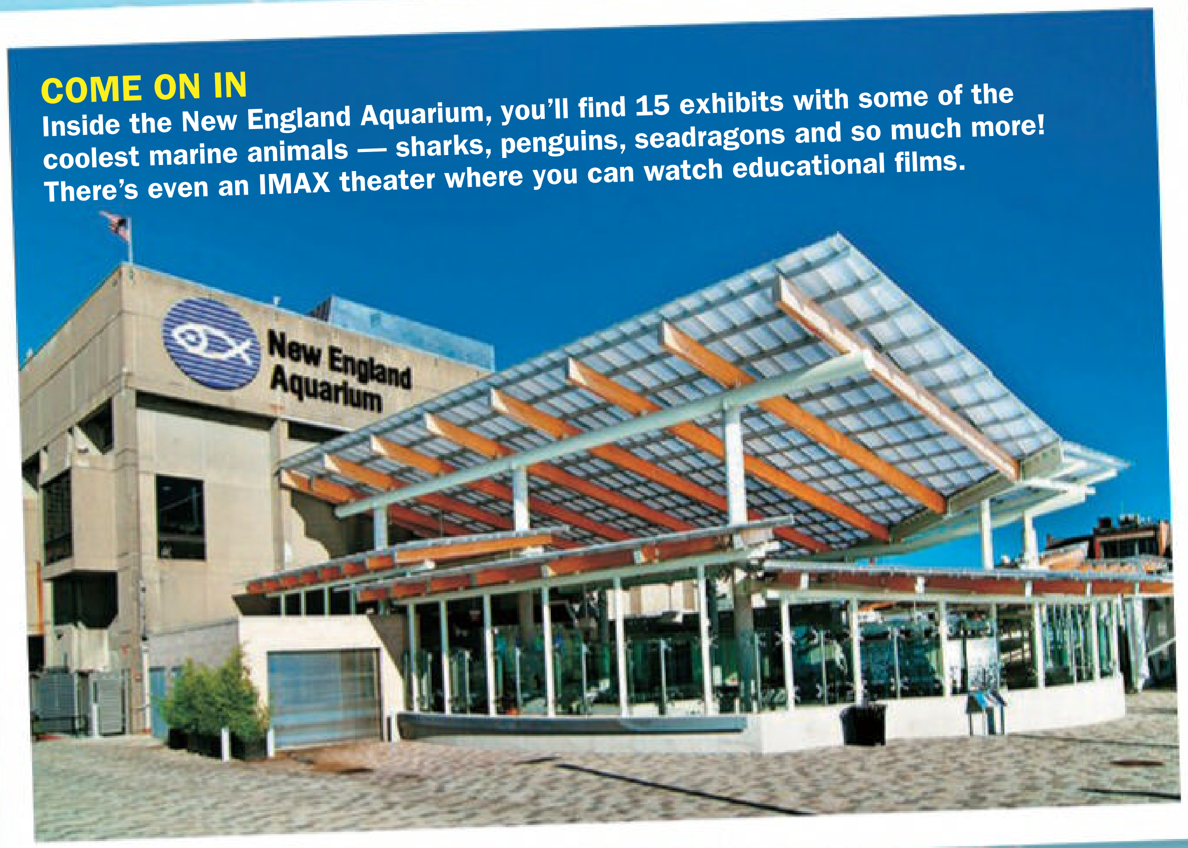
Esther grabbed the leashes and waved goodbye-for-now to Ms. Hopkins.

"Your mommy isn't the meanie people make her out to be at school," she whispered to the pups as they walked away.

But Max and Peanut weren't pay any attention. They were too busy diving into snow piles with big smiles on their faces.

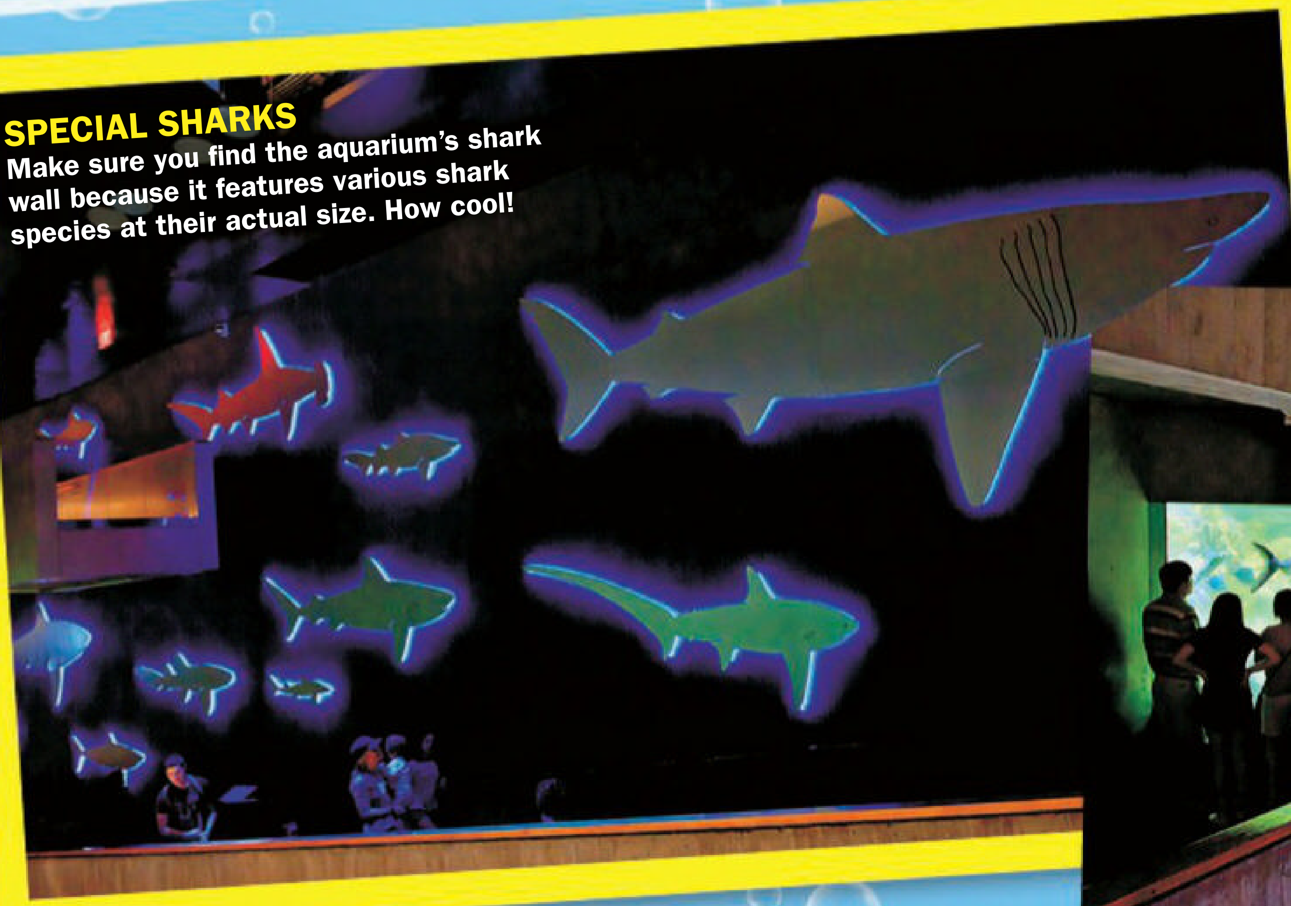
"You guys are excited, huh?" Esther smiled. "Okay, out of the window and into the winter wonderland we go!" 🐾

Animal Tales Tours: New England

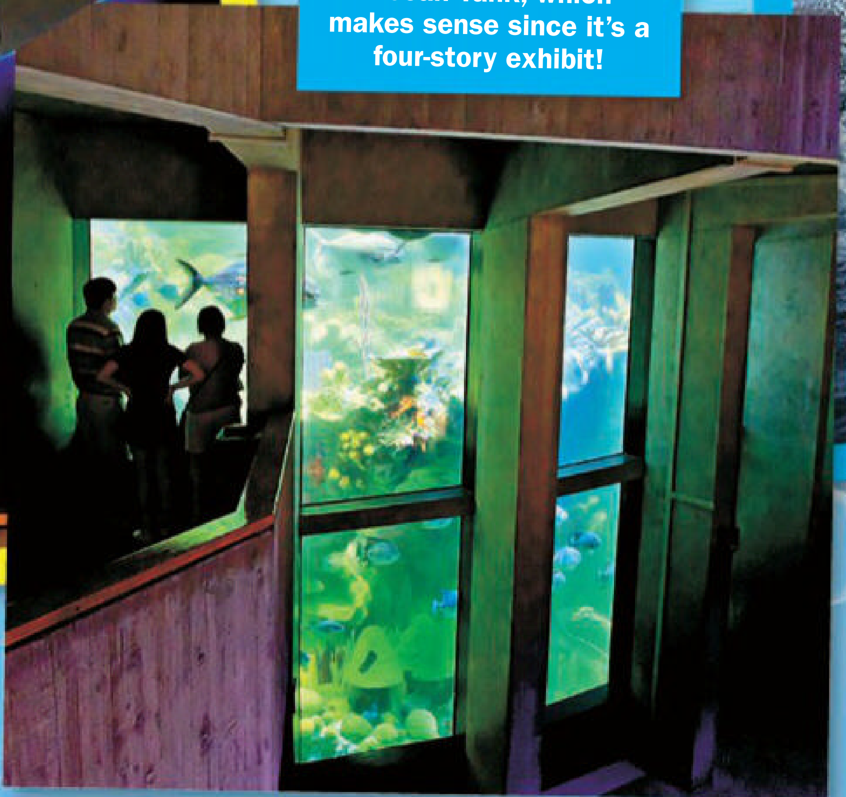


COME ON IN
Inside the New England Aquarium, you'll find 15 exhibits with some of the coolest marine animals — sharks, penguins, seadragons and so much more! There's even an IMAX theater where you can watch educational films.

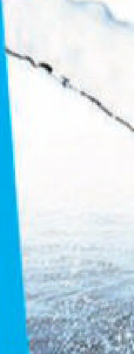
CARE CENTER
You won't be able to visit the aquarium's Animal Care Center since it's in a separate building miles away, but that's where they care for sick and injured sea life.



SPECIAL SHARKS
Make sure you find the aquarium's shark wall because it features various shark species at their actual size. How cool!



LARGER THAN LIFE
There are 2,000 animals — including sea turtles, barracuda and moray eels — in the Giant Ocean Tank, which makes sense since it's a four-story exhibit!



S. CHENG; C. LEBLANC; KEITH ELLENBOGEN; NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM (3); WEBB CHAPPELL (2); J. FILLMAN

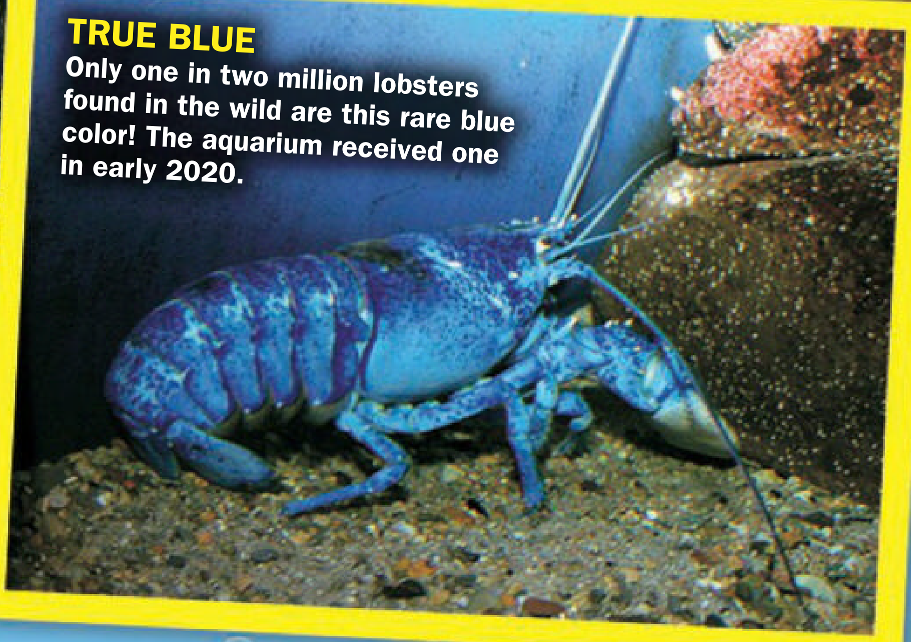
SWEET SEALS
Meet Zoe and Sierra! The California sea lions live in the Marine Mammal Center along with some northern fur seals.

HANDS ON
You can actually touch epaulette sharks, cownose rays and Atlantic rays in the Shark and Ray Touch Tank.

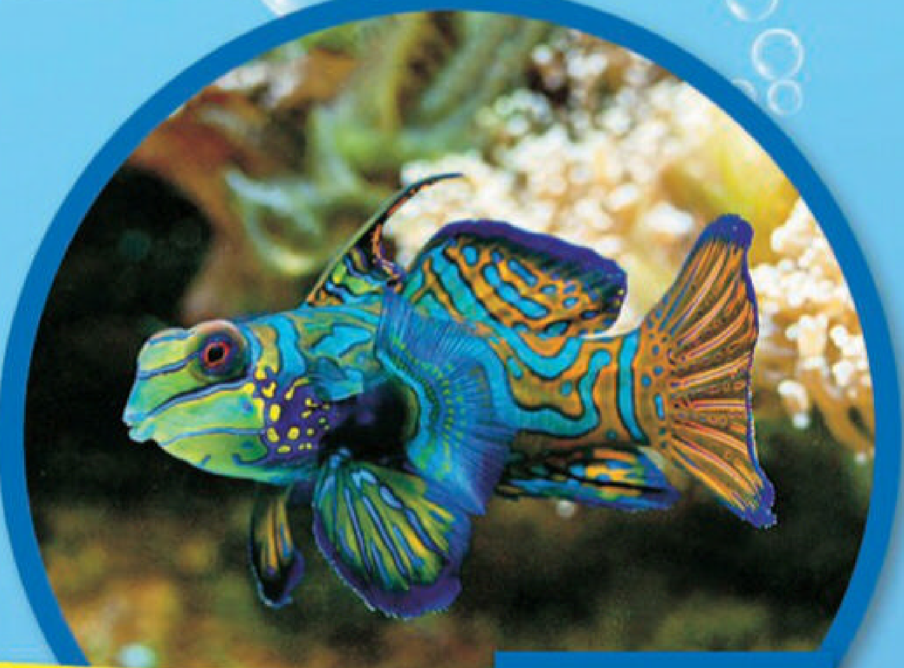
Aquarium!

A look inside the Massachusetts aquarium!

WHALE WATCHING
You can go on a whale watching cruise from a wharf near the aquarium! You'll take the boat out onto the water, where you're bound to see whales, dolphins and other marine life. (And if you don't, you get a free ticket to come back!)



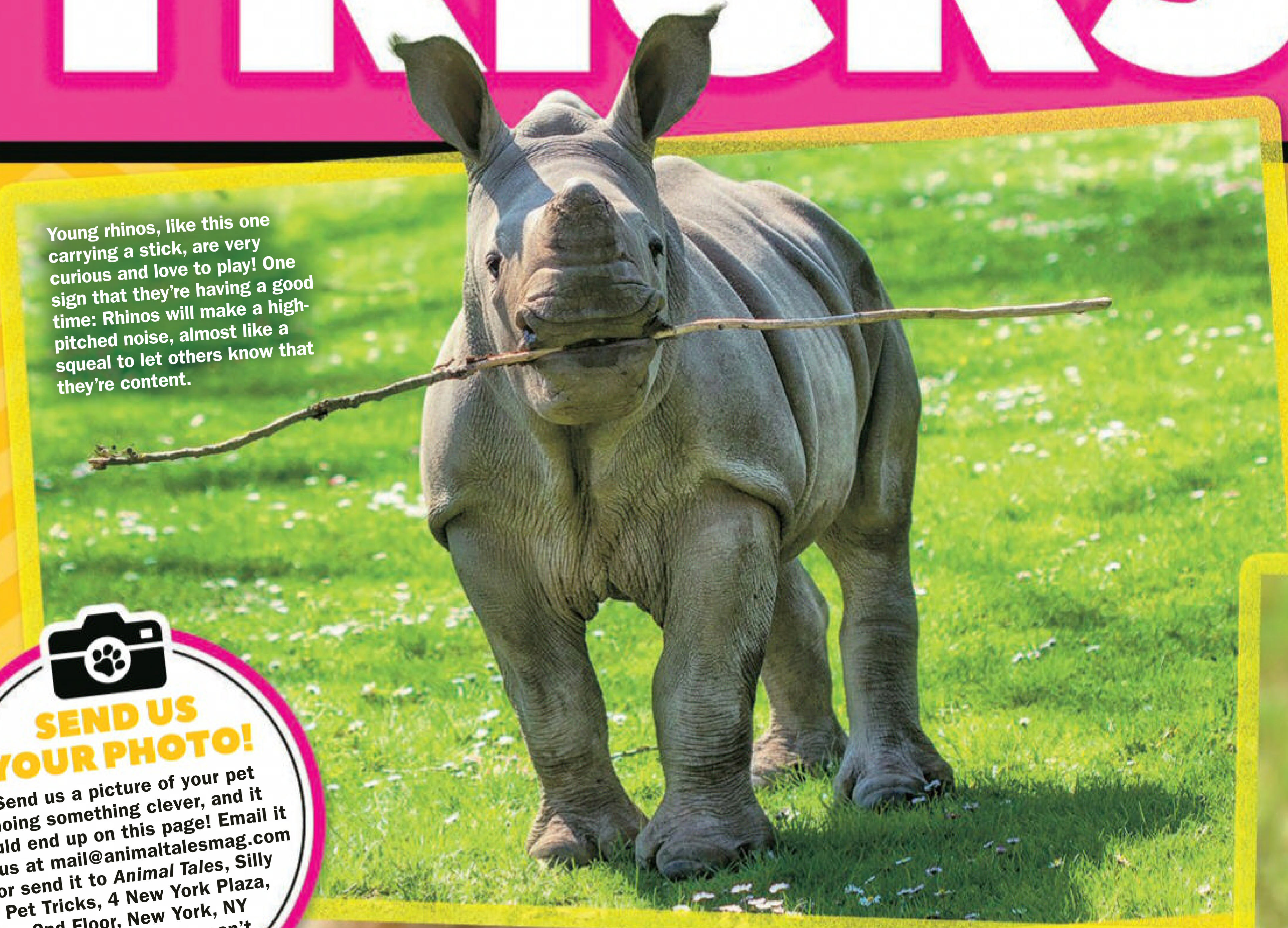
TRUE BLUE
Only one in two million lobsters found in the wild are this rare blue color! The aquarium received one in early 2020.



PLENTY OF FISH
Find the colorful mandarinfish swimming along the aquarium's living coral in the Tropical Gallery.

Silly Pet TRICKS

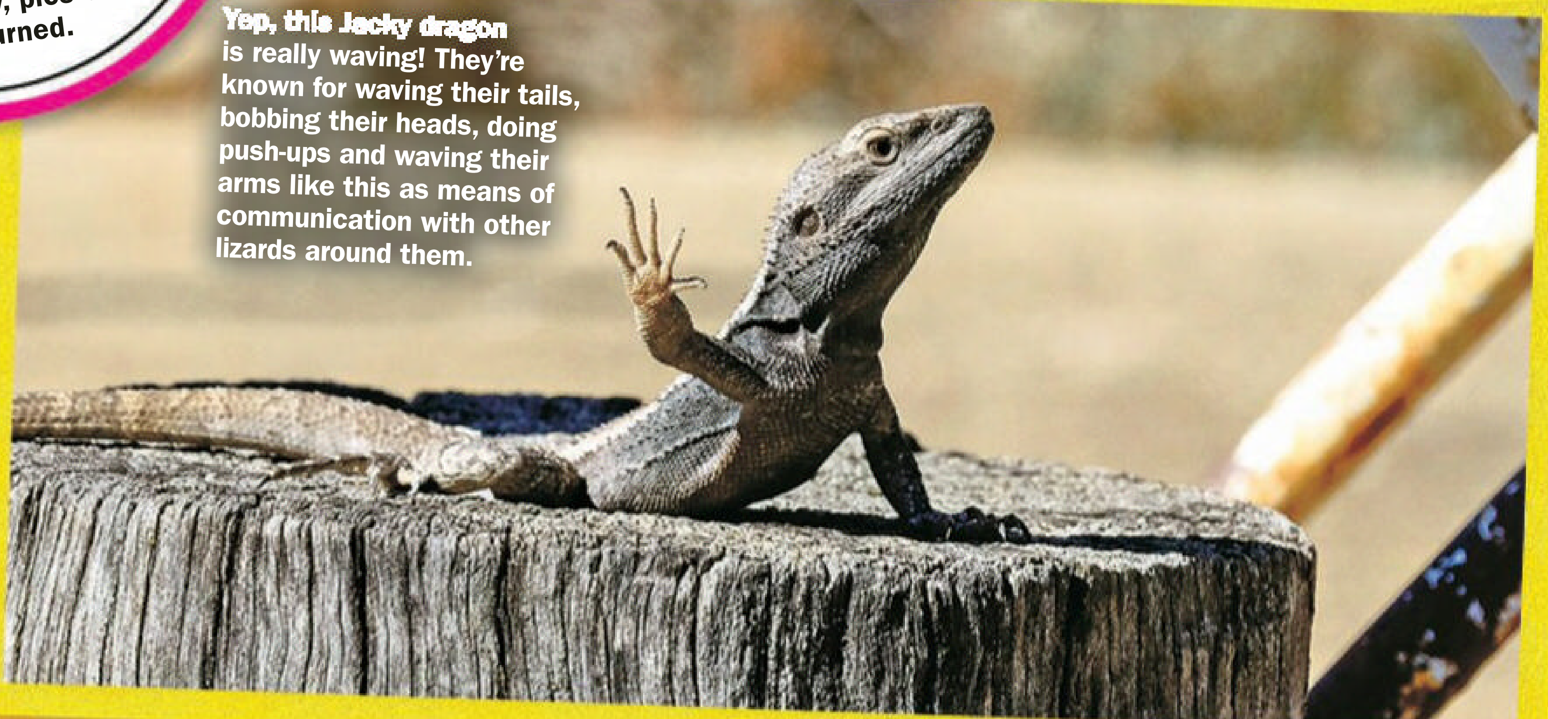
Wow, these are some clever critters!



Young rhinos, like this one carrying a stick, are very curious and love to play! One sign that they're having a good time: Rhinos will make a high-pitched noise, almost like a squeal to let others know that they're content.

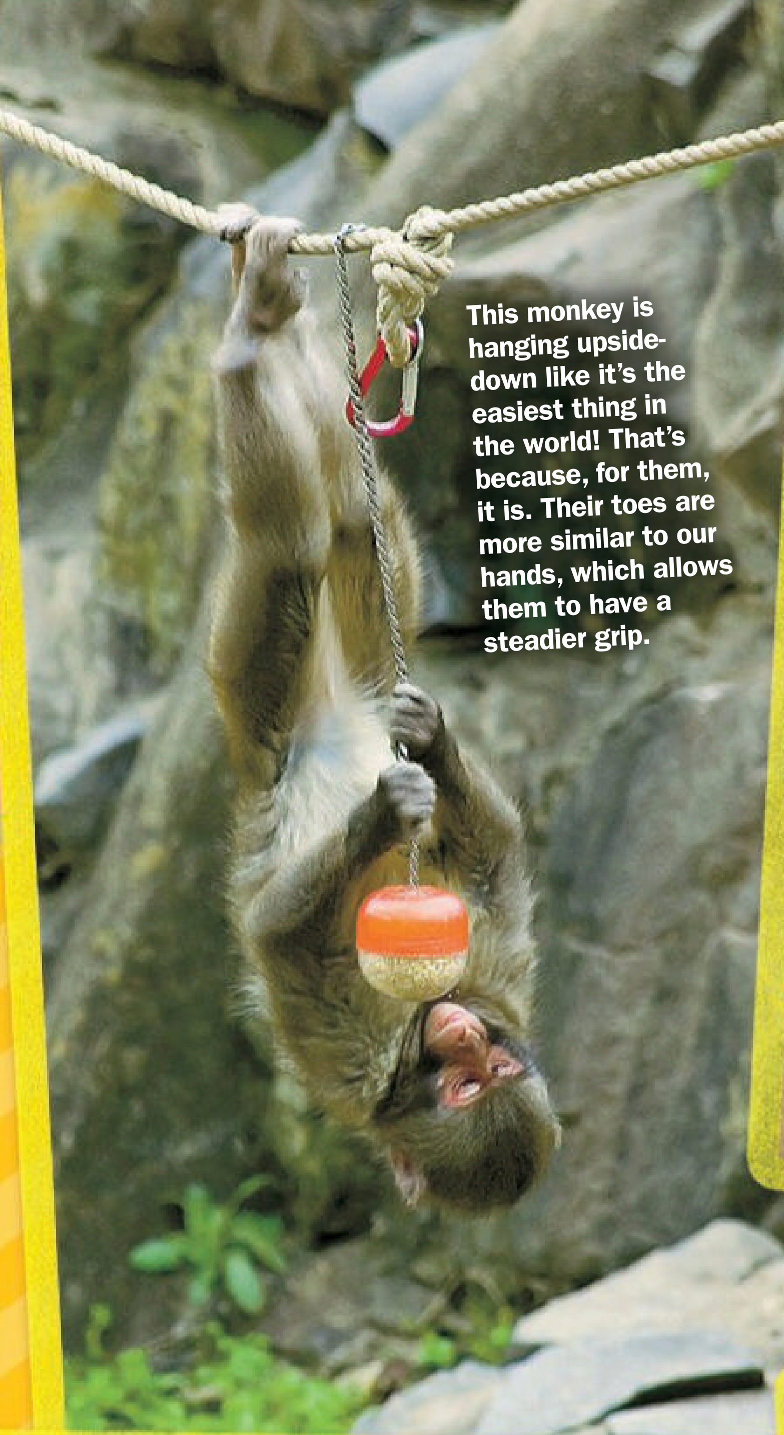
SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your pet doing something clever, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com or send it to *Animal Tales*, Silly Pet Tricks, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.



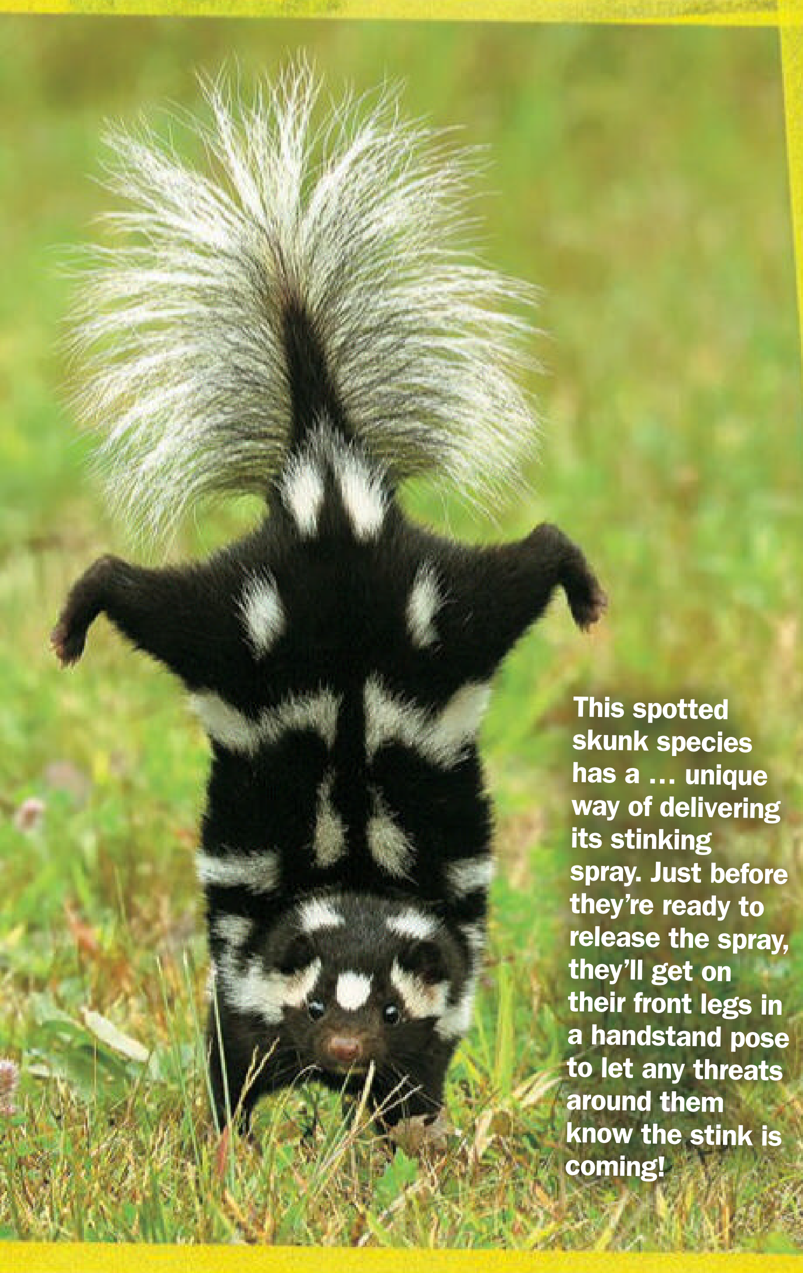
Yep, this Jacky dragon is really waving! They're known for waving their tails, bobbing their heads, doing push-ups and waving their arms like this as means of communication with other lizards around them.

SHUTTERSTOCK; KAREN GIBLETT PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK; ILYA D. GRIDNEV/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALEKSEY BOYKO/SHUTTERSTOCK; AGNIESZKA BACAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; VICTOR NAUMENKO/SHUTTERSTOCK



This monkey is hanging upside-down like it's the easiest thing in the world! That's because, for them, it is. Their toes are more similar to our hands, which allows them to have a steadier grip.

Dogs are very intelligent, and their good memories may let them play games like this. Anything involving food or a treat — like the one hiding beneath one of those cups — helps to improve their memory!



This spotted skunk species has a … unique way of delivering its stinking spray. Just before they're ready to release the spray, they'll get on their front legs in a handstand pose to let any threats around them know the stink is coming!

Do you think this rabbit is adding a carrot to the snowman or taking it away for a snack? Though rabbits have a reputation for being carrot lovers, the truth is carrots are healthier as occasional snacks and not something they should be eating every day!

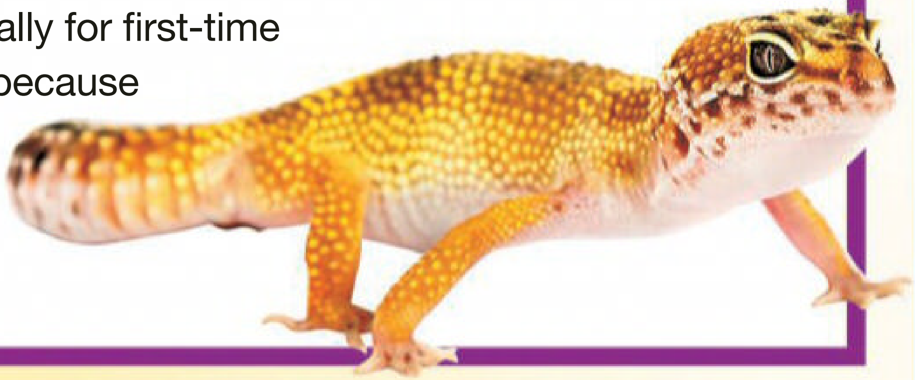
So You Want a GECKO!

These lizards make excellent first pets for anyone!

The Madagascar day gecko is one of the largest of the day gecko species!

PERSONALITY

There are nearly 2,000 different known species of geckos in the world! The most common species to have as a pet is the leopard gecko. Some other options include crested geckos and gold dust day geckos. Geckos make great pets, especially for first-time pet owners because they're calm and easy to take care of.



FEATURES

Every species of gecko has a different color and pattern to their skin. Some are in the brown family, some are bright green or yellow and some have spots. They can also grow to be different sizes, with most reaching 5 to 10 inches long. Geckos are also known for their tails, because they have the ability to drop their tails. That means, if they feel threatened, their tail will fall off and then slowly grow back!

SOCIALIZATION

Because they're calmer than many other reptiles, geckos are often okay with being held. They're usually easy to handle, though you should never hold one by its tail. Be gentle and slow when you have a gecko in your hands. You may notice over time that it likes to cuddle up in your hands — that's because you're keeping it warm!

ROBERT EASTMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; ZORAN ORCIK/SHUTTERSTOCK; DWI YULIANTO/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK; SUNWARDS/SHUTTERSTOCK

FOOD

A gecko's favorite food is live insects! That means you'll have to keep live insects in your home. Geckos can be picky eaters so it's best to provide a variety of live insects. Crickets and mealworms are popular choices. Baby geckos should be fed every day, while adults can be fed every other day.

HOUSING

One gecko should have a tank that's 10 to 20 gallons. The tops of their tanks need to be carefully shut because they're small and can sneak out of any openings! Because geckos live in deserts in the wild, they need to have a high temperature in part of their tank. You can use a heating lamp and a heating pad to make one side of the tank hot. This way, they can warm up and cool down whenever they need to.

UNIQUE TRAITS

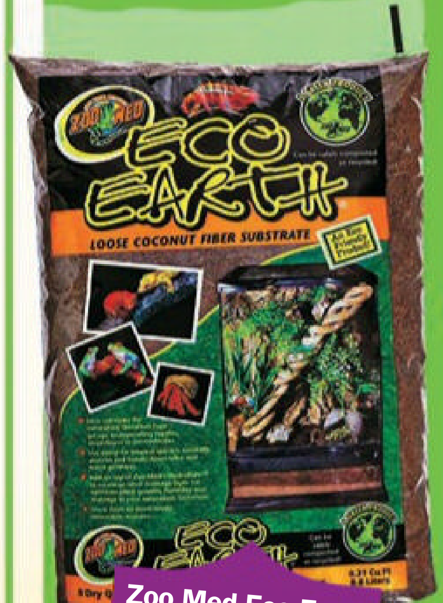
Most gecko species are nocturnal, which means they'll be most active at night and sleep during the day. Some geckos, like the leopard gecko, are crepuscular, which means they're up between dusk and dawn because that's when they'd be hunting for food in the wild.

GROOMING

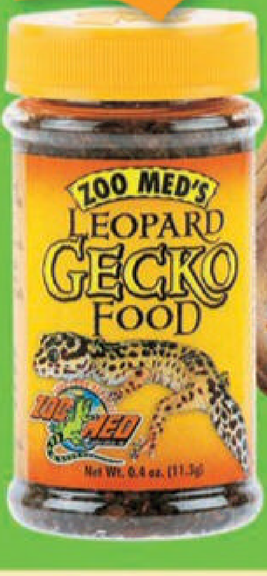
Geckos typically shed every few months, and though they do most of their shedding on their own, they sometimes need a bit of help! As they start shedding, parts of their old skin can get stuck and this isn't safe. The key to helping them? Moisture! Wetting their skin with a bath, spray or damp towel will help. Note: Never leave your gecko alone in water!

Supplies You'll Need!

Stock up on these essentials.



Zoo Med Eco Earth Loose Coconut Fiber Substrate, $15, petco.com



Zoo Med Leopard Gecko Food, $7, petsmart.com

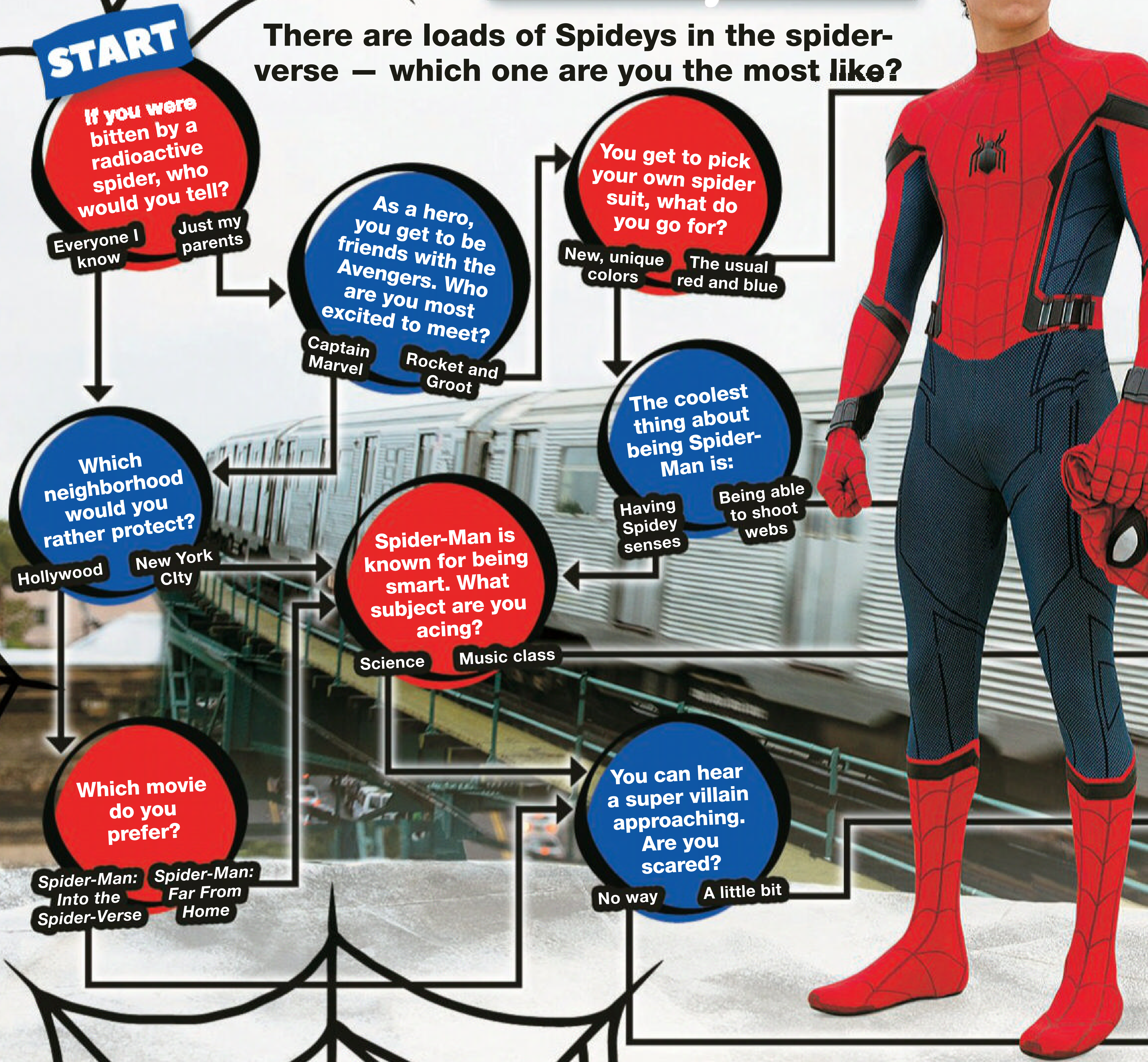
Zilla Desert Reptile Terrarium Starter Kit with Light and Heat, 10-gal, $78, chewy.com

Exo Terra Gecko Cave for Reptiles, $19, chewy.com

Imagitarium Corner Bowl for Reptiles, $25, petco.com

Which SPIDER-MAN are you?

There are loads of Spideys in the spider-verse — which one are you the most like?



START

If you were bitten by a radioactive spider, who would you tell?

- Everyone I know
- Just my parents

As a hero, you get to be friends with the Avengers. Who are you most excited to meet?

- Captain Marvel
- Rocket and Groot

You get to pick your own spider suit, what do you go for?

- New, unique colors
- The usual red and blue

Which neighborhood would you rather protect?

- Hollywood
- New York City

The coolest thing about being Spider-Man is:

- Having Spidey senses
- Being able to shoot webs

Spider-Man is known for being smart. What subject are you acing?

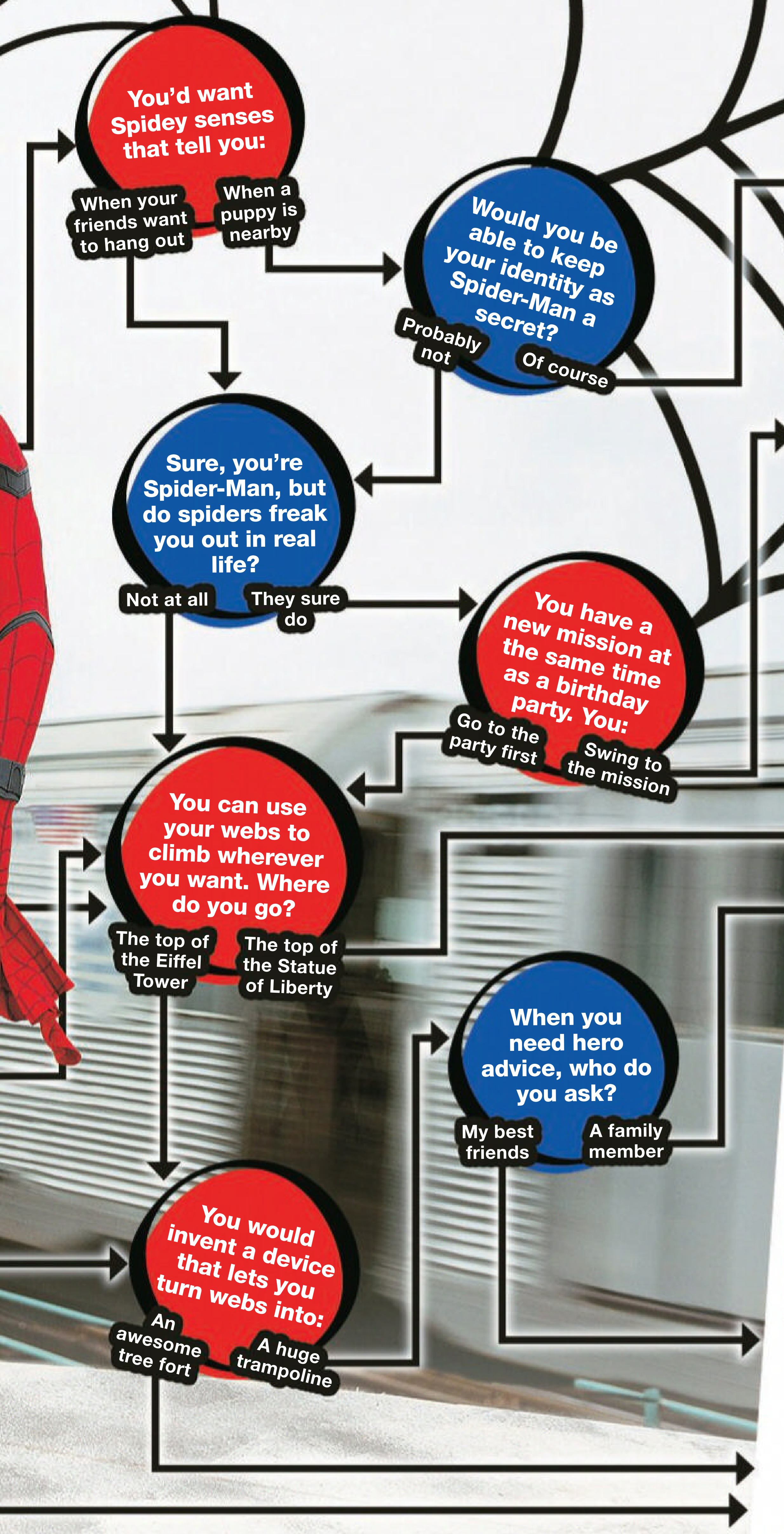
- Science
- Music class

Which movie do you prefer?

- Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse
- Spider-Man: Far From Home

You can hear a super villain approaching. Are you scared?

- No way
- A little bit



You'd want Spidey senses that tell you:

- When your friends want to hang out
- When a puppy is nearby

Would you be able to keep your identity as Spider-Man a secret?

- Probably not
- Of course

Sure, you're Spider-Man, but do spiders freak you out in real life?

- Not at all
- They sure do

You have a new mission at the same time as a birthday party. You:

- Go to the party first
- Swing to the mission

You can use your webs to climb wherever you want. Where do you go?

- The top of the Eiffel Tower
- The top of the Statue of Liberty

When you need hero advice, who do you ask?

- My best friends
- A family member

You would invent a device that lets you turn webs into:

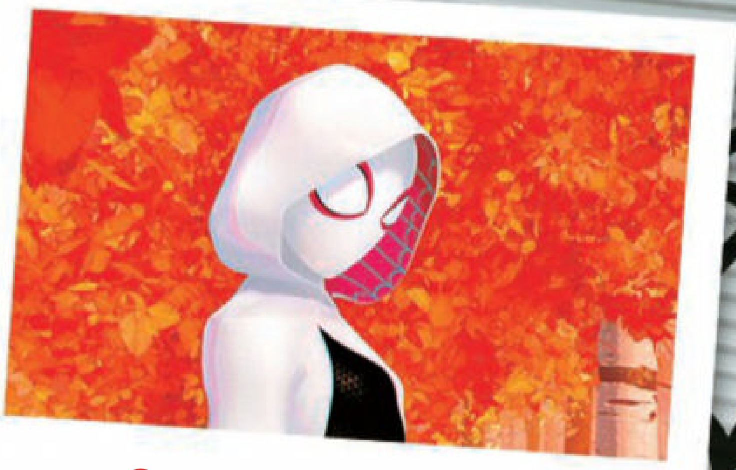
- An awesome tree fort
- A huge trampoline

PETER PARKER

Peter Parker is determined to help those in need! He's your match because you're both headstrong and outgoing. The neighborhood could use more heroes like you!

MILES MORALES

Miles is a unique Spider-Man who does things his own way ... just like you! You're artistic, you love music and you never follow what the crowd is doing. That's your superpower!



GWEN STACEY

Spider-Man? Ha, more like Spider-Gwen! Confident is your middle name, which is why you're as cool as Gwen. You bring the sass and the Spidey skills!

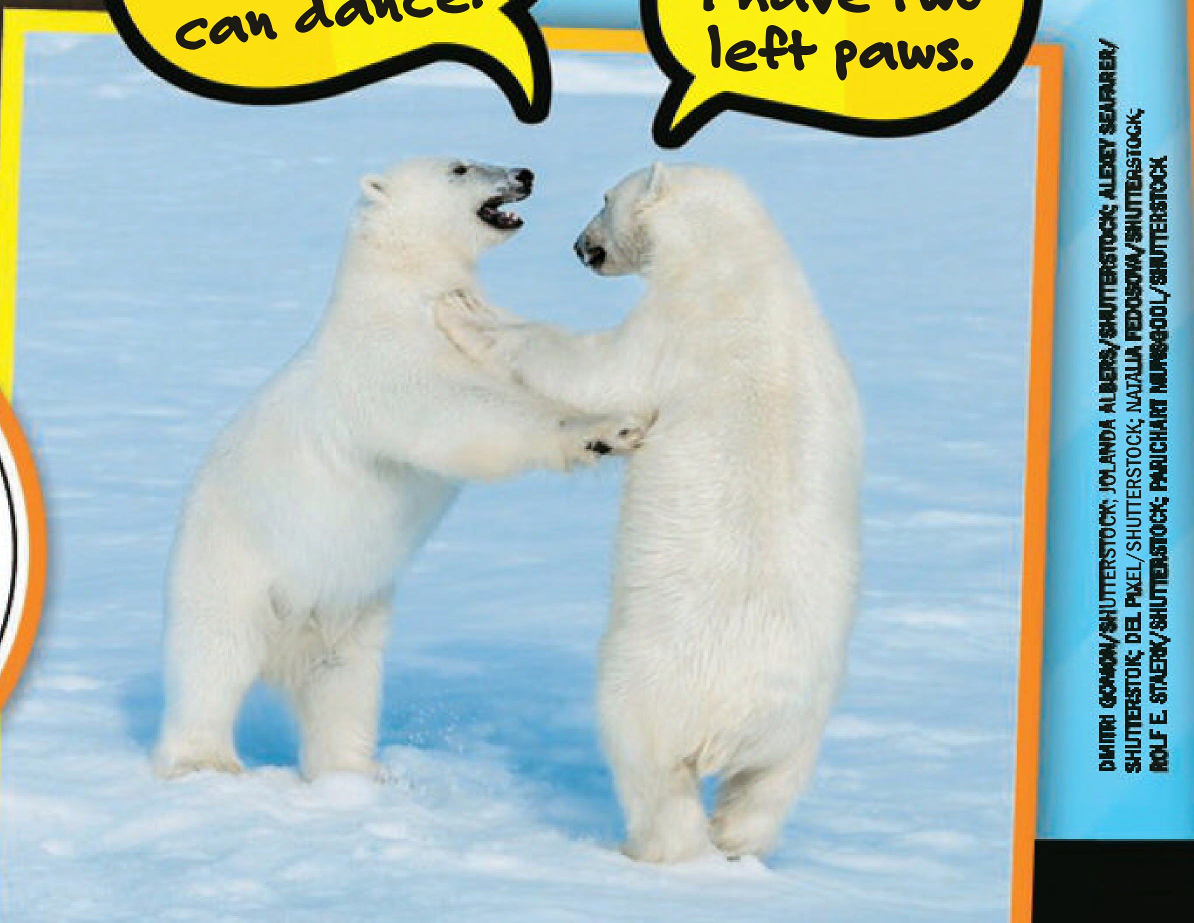
CHUCK ZLOTNICK/COLUMBIA/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; MARVEL/DISNEY/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK; SONY/COLUMBIA/MARVEL/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Animal ANTICS

If these badly-behaved creatures could talk...

Did someone say Santa?!

This is the last time I ask her if she wants to meditate with me!
Omm! Omm! Omm!


Come on — every bear can dance!
Not me! I have two left paws.

SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your pet behaving badly, and it could end up on this page! Email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com or send it to *Animal Tales*, Animal Antics, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

DMITRI GOMON/SHUTTERSTOCK; JOLANDA ALBERS/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALEKSEY SEAFARER/SHUTTERSTOCK; DEL PIXEL/SHUTTERSTOCK; NATALIA FEDOSOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; ROLF E. STAERK/SHUTTERSTOCK; PARICHART MUNSGOOL/SHUTTERSTOCK

Why are you guys standing so far away?
Uhhhh …
You smell worse than all the manure in the barn!

I've been lying here for 10 minutes. When is she gonna come give me a belly rub?!

On your mark, get set …
No fair, he's cheating!
Haha, suckers!

Let's get him!
You ate the last banana?!?!

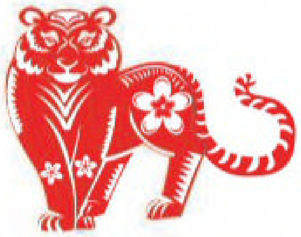
Celebrate the YEAR OF THE TIGER!

In Chinese tradition, the new year is celebrated based on the lunisolar calendar, meaning the new year happens when there is a new moon! Each year, New Year's Day changes, but it's always sometime between January 21 and February 20. This year, Chinese New Year begins on February 1. One thing that makes Chinese New Year special is that every year is represented by one of 12 animals, and 2022 is the year of the tiger! The animals are connected to the zodiac and each one represents something different. That means we all have a different animal based on the year we were born. Check out the list below to learn more about the year of the tiger and the animal that matches your birth year!

TIGER

(2022, 2010, 1998)

Those born in the year of the tiger are true leaders! They are confident and competitive, but are also well-liked by others.



HORSE

(2026, 2014, 2002)

You'll never miss someone with the Chinese zodiac horse sign! They're cheerful and have loads of energy.

DOG

(2030, 2018, 2006)

Dogs are known to be loyal pets, and humans under this sign are just as loyal! They'd never betray a best friend.

RABBIT

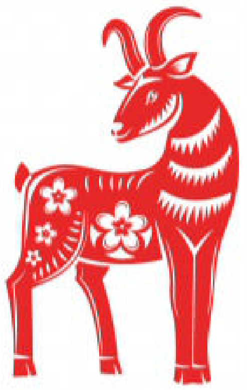
(2023, 2010, 1999)

The year of the rabbit represents people who are gentle and kind. They're easy to talk to and very optimistic.

GOAT

(2027, 2015, 2003)

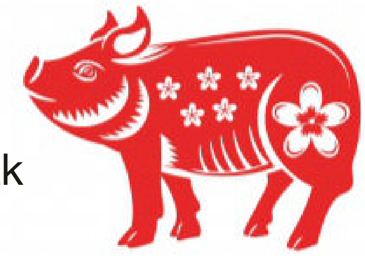
Goat signs care so much about other people. They always set out to do the right thing and be kind.



PIG

(2031, 2019, 2007)

The pig sign is known to be very responsible. They keep their spaces tidy and never break promises.



DRAGON

(2024, 2012, 2000)

You're determined to be great if you were born in the year of the dragon! Dragon signs have a reputation for setting high goals.

MONKEY

(2028, 2016, 2004)

The year of the monkey is all about chasing your curiosities! Those under this sign are smart and always ready for a new challenge.

RAT

(2032, 2020, 2008)

You're one witty kid if the rat is your sign! Rats are quick to spot things that others may miss.

SNAKE

(2025, 2013, 2001)

The snake is a calm figure that's very wise. If the year of the snake is your year, it takes a lot to get you upset!

ROOSTER

(2029, 2017, 2005)

Roosters are outgoing! They have the courage to do things even if they're the only person doing it.

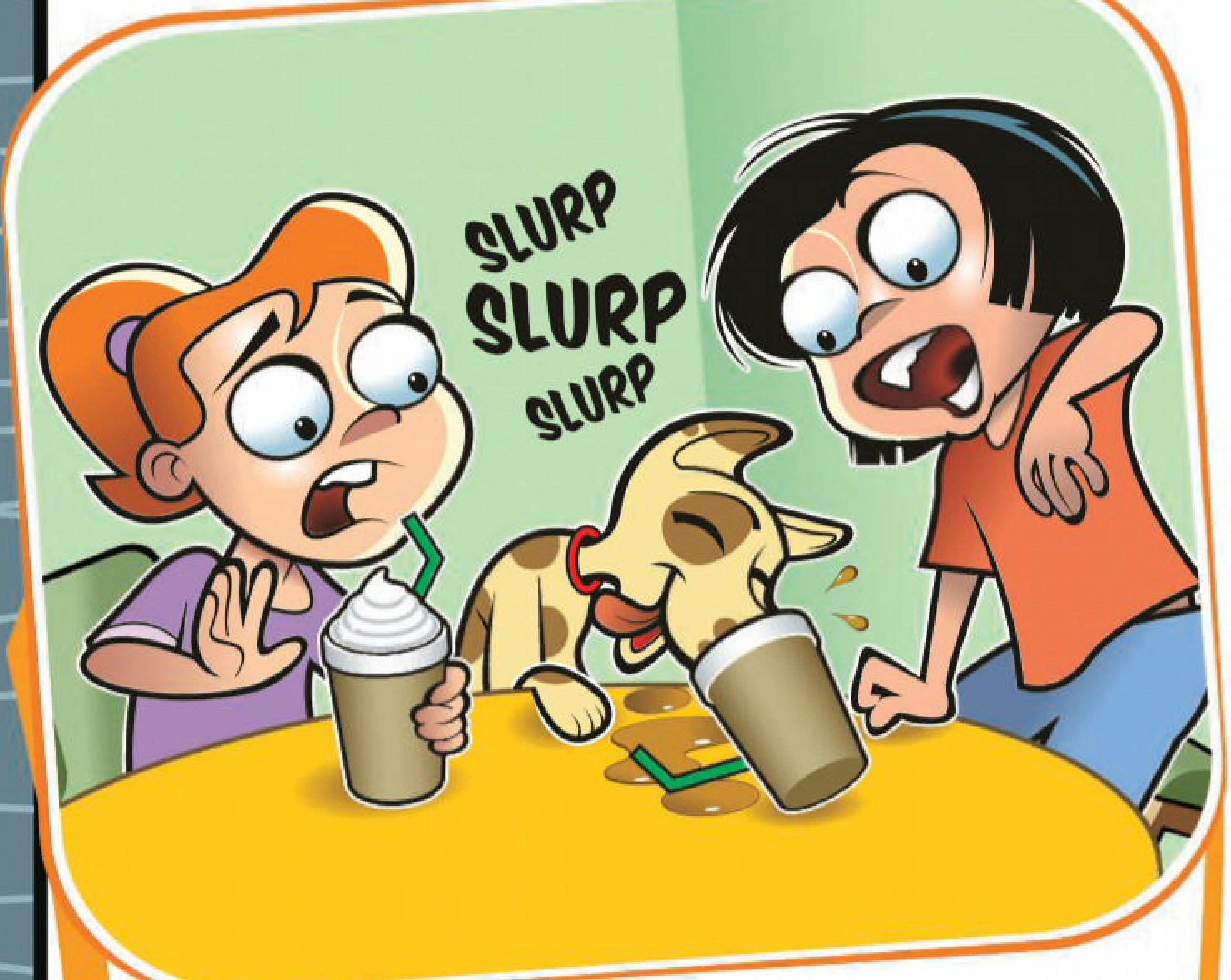
OX

(2033, 2021, 2009)

Everyone can depend on those born in the year of the ox. That's because there is no one more hardworking.

SHUTTERSTOCK; SOFIA V/SHUTTERSTOCK

Embarrassing MOMEN



Starbucks surprise

To say I spoil my dog, Rosie, is an understatment! She gets everything she wants and her favorite treat is a Puppuccino from Starbucks. We get her one whenever we go. Once, my best friend, Melissa, came over and brought Starbucks drinks for the two of us to have. As we were talking, Rosie came running over, jumped on the table and shoved her face into the whipped cream on Melissa's drink! She was so used to having her own Puppuccino that she thought it was for her. I felt so bad that Melissa's drink was ruined! **— Makayla, NM**

Pond prob

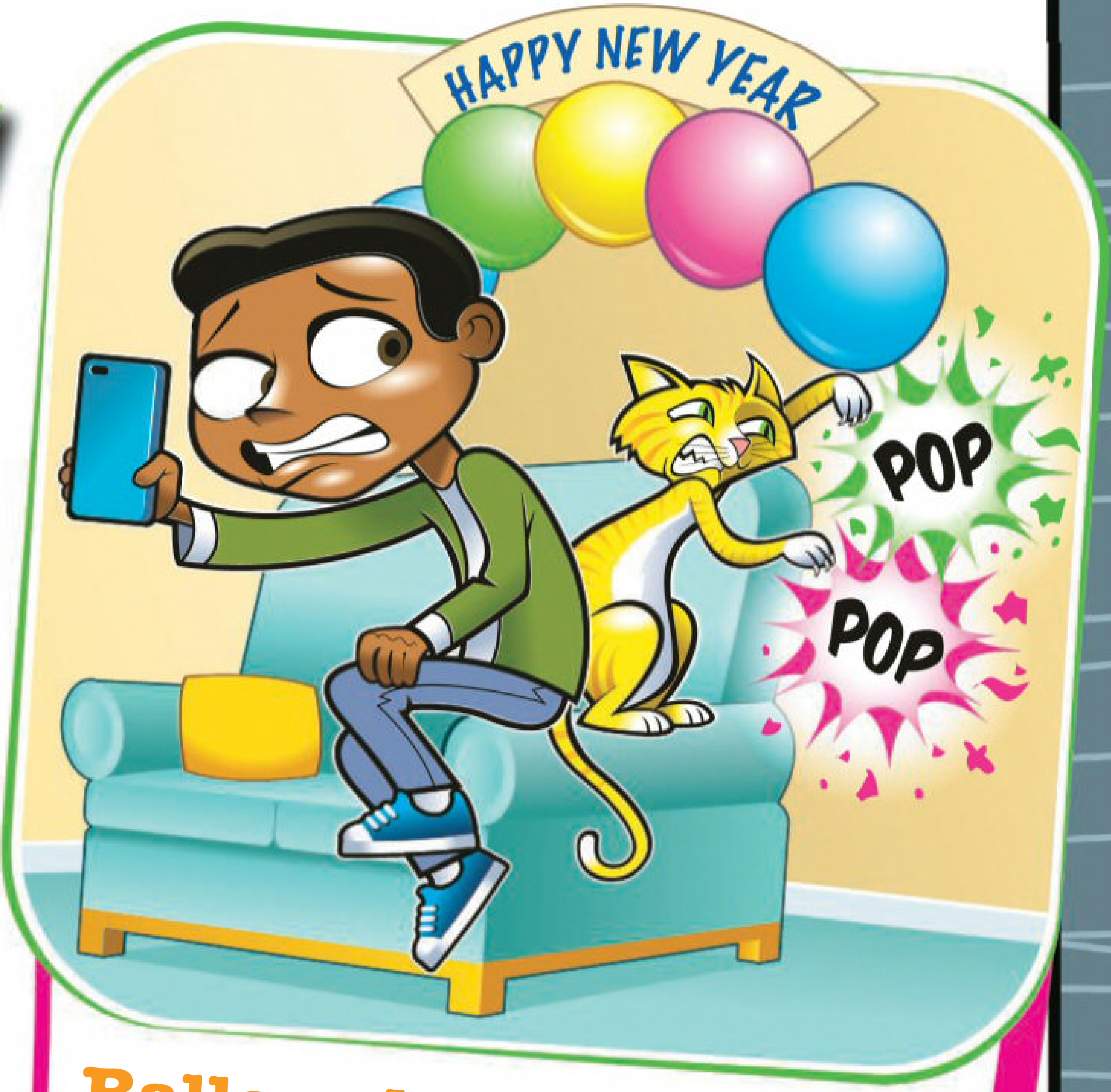
I have a major fear of tiny rodents. Just thinking of them creeps me out! Once, at my friend's house, I overheard her mom telling my mom that they spotted a mouse in their basement. It was all I could think about while we were there! We were in my friend's room doing crafts when I saw the mouse! I freaked out, ran downstairs and out the front door, telling my mom to follow me. When my friend came out, she was holding the "mouse" — a gray pom pom from her craft box! **— Sydney, OH**

Owl oopsie

My two little brothers love the show *PJ Masks*. It's a little babyish for me, but the show has two boys and a girl, just like us. So, when my brothers play, they always ask me to pretend to be the girl, Owlette. Once, we were all dressed like the characters and I was pretending to fly around the room and save the day when I heard giggling. I totally lost track of time and my whole Girl Scout troop was there for our meeting ... and saw me in my silly owl costume flying around! **— Keira, MI**

Sometimes our furry friends cause crazy catastrophes!

TS!



Snow stream

There are lots of kids on my block, and we love making snowmen whenever it snows! One time, my parents and I were walking our dog, Buster, and looking at all the cool snowmen. One family was outside and we started talking about what a great job they did on theirs. I could tell Buster liked it, too. He was wagging his tail and sniffing like crazy! But, then, he lifted up his leg and started to take a tinkle right on the snowman. Talk about awkward — plus, we all felt so bad! — **Olive, NJ**

Dino dilemma

Dinosaurs are my favorite thing. My whole room is covered in dinosaur stuff! My mom even showed me how to do a silly dinosaur filter on her computer. Right before my Zoom art class, I was messing around with the filter and then I thought I clicked it off. But, when the class started, I still had my dino face! Everyone knew it was me and all the students were laughing, but my teacher was not happy because she thought I was being a jokester. Whoops! — **Griffin, WY**

Balloon bust

My aunt and uncle throw a New Year's Eve party for our family every year. My older cousins are known for making such cool decorations for the celebration. Last year was the first New Year's with my cat, Sheldon, so we brought him along for the party. I wanted to take some fun selfies with Sheldon and the awesome decorations, so I found the perfect spot. I lifted up the camera and smiled when I saw in the screen that Sheldon was about to pounce on all the balloons. He moved too fast for me to stop him and started popping every balloon in sight! All of that hard work was destroyed. We won't be bringing Sheldon to this year's party! — **Mike, RI**

KEY

Totally embarrassing!

Don't show your face for a while!

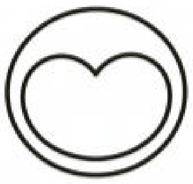
Yikes! You'll never live that down!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARK COLLINS

Snowy SPECIES!

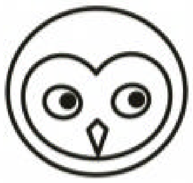
Draw these cool creatures!

Snowy owl



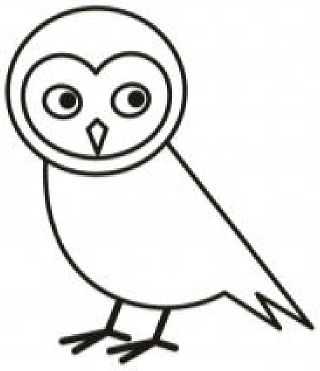
1

Start by drawing a circular head. Inside, sketch a heart with a rounded bottom.



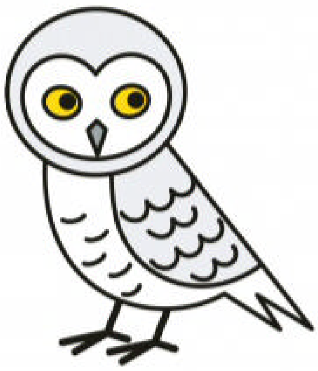
2

Add two oval eyes with dark pupils inside. For the beak, make a wide upside-down "V." Attach it to a long "V" underneath.



3

For the body, draw a slanted half-circle, but create a jagged tail in the lower right corner. Add straight line legs and talons.

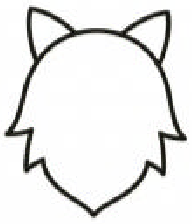


4

Sketch straight lines with curved ends on the body and curvy lines on the wing. Finally, color in your owl!

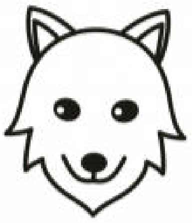
Your drawing here!

Arctic wolf



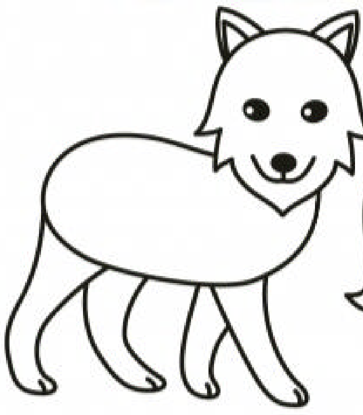
1

Create the top of a curved head, then make the jagged fur details on the sides. End the shape at a point. Draw two triangular ears.



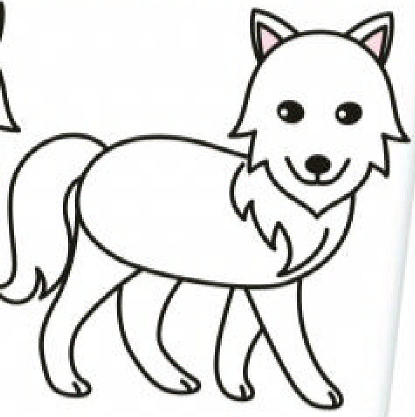
2

Draw two ovals for eyes; fill them in, leaving a white pupil. Add an oval nose that's connected to a wide, curved mouth. Outline the ears.



3

Draw a long, curved body behind the head and four curved legs. Add line details on all the paws.

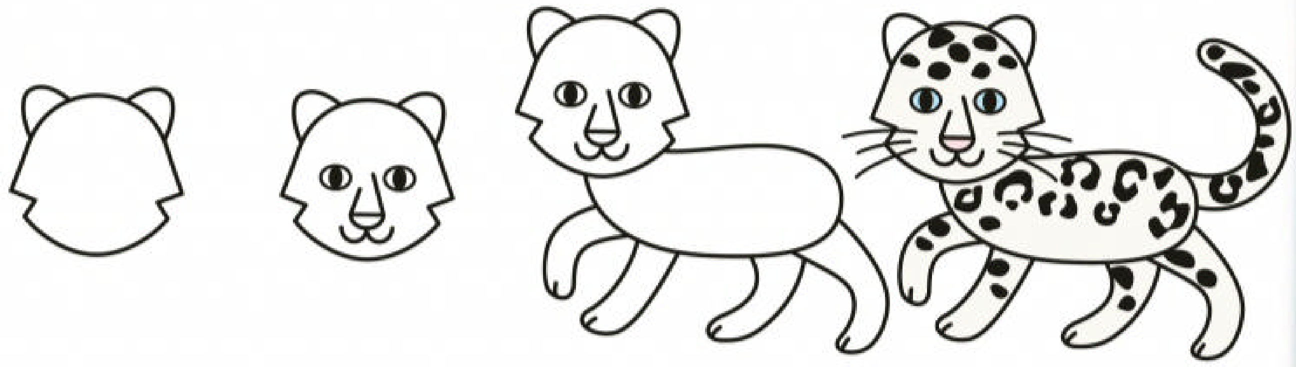


4

Sketch a curved tail with a jagged bottom, then add fur details to the chest. Time to color!

Your drawing here!

Snow leopard



1

Draw a rounded head that has “v” indents on each side. Add on rounded triangular ears.

2

Make almond-shaped eyes with ovals inside. For the nose, draw two slanted lines connected to a half-circle. Underneath, draw a “w” mouth.

3

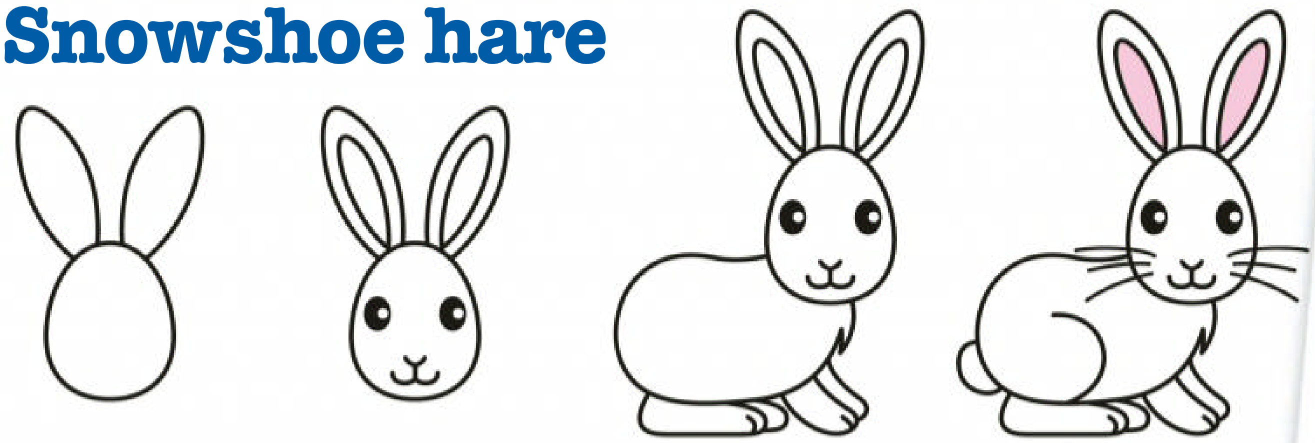
Create a long, curved body with four rounded legs attached underneath. Add a line on each paw.

4

Draw a curved tail, the add the leopard’s spots and its whiskers. Color in!

Your drawing here!

Snowshoe hare



1

Begin with an egg-shaped head. Sketch two long, round ears above it.

2

Add an outline inside each ear. Draw two dark oval eyes with white pupils inside. Add a wide “u” nose and connect it to a wide “w” mouth.

3

Sketch a rounded body with one jagged hair on the chest to the left of the head. Draw rounded, flat-bottomed back paws and curved front paws.

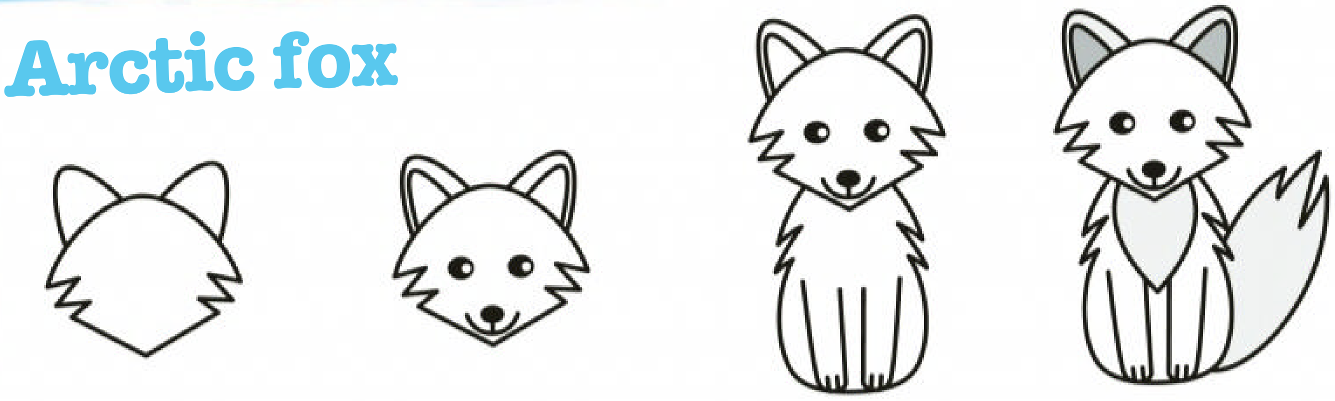
4

Add slanted lines for whiskers, a curved line leg and a half-circle tail. Color!

Your drawing here!

ILLUSTRATIONS BY NAOKO MATSUNAGA

Arctic fox



1

Draw a half-circle head, then create “w” indents on both sides and slanted lines that meet at a point. Add on rounded triangles for ears.

2

Sketch an outline in the ears. Shade in dark circular eyes, leaving a white pupil. Add an oval nose; connect it to a curved line mouth.

3

Start drawing the body, making jagged lines for fur at the top of each side. Create a rounded shape underneath. Add on two rounded rectangle legs with two lines on each paw.

4

Draw an upside-down teardrop on the chest and a wide, rounded tail with jagged ends. Color!

Your drawing here!

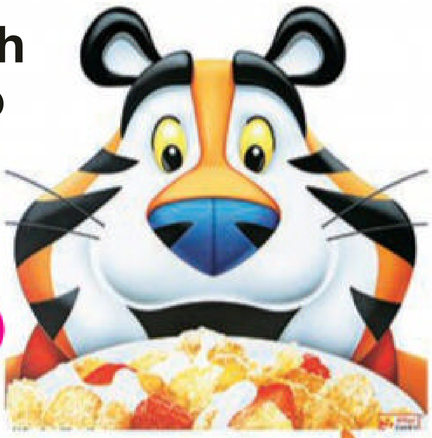
UP-ROAR-IOUS FUN

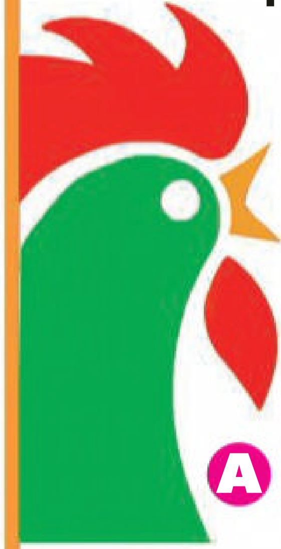
Animal Tales makes games just for critter lovers like you!

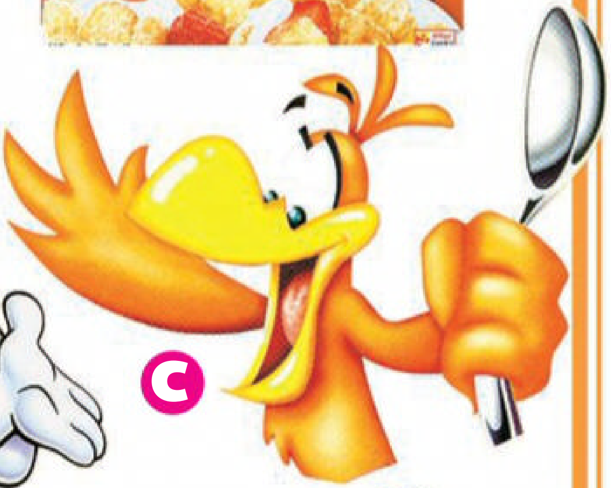
See answers on page 85.

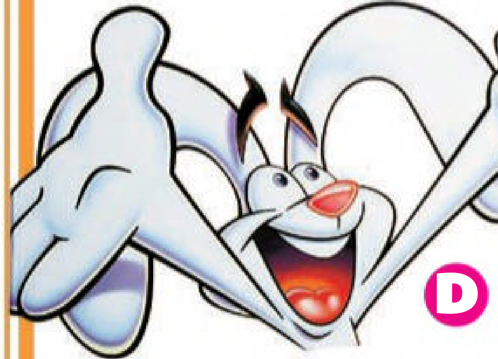
GUESS THE CEREAL MASCOT!

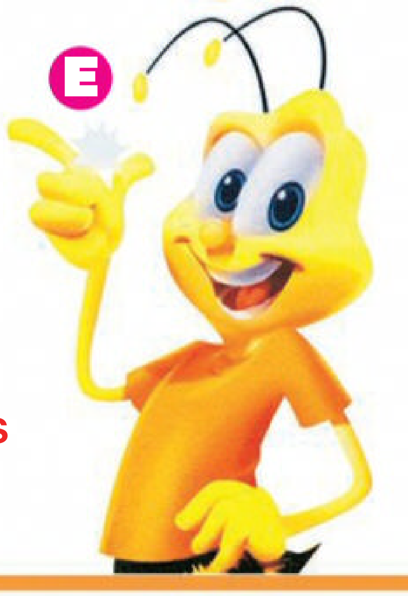
Match each mascot to its cereal!











- ☐ Frosted Flakes
- ☐ Trix
- ☐ Corn Flakes
- ☐ Honey Nut Cheerios
- ☐ Cocoa Puffs

STUFF Your Face!

Unscramble the different foods a chipmunk would eat!

1 esdes ____

2 ceistns ____

3 rasgin ____

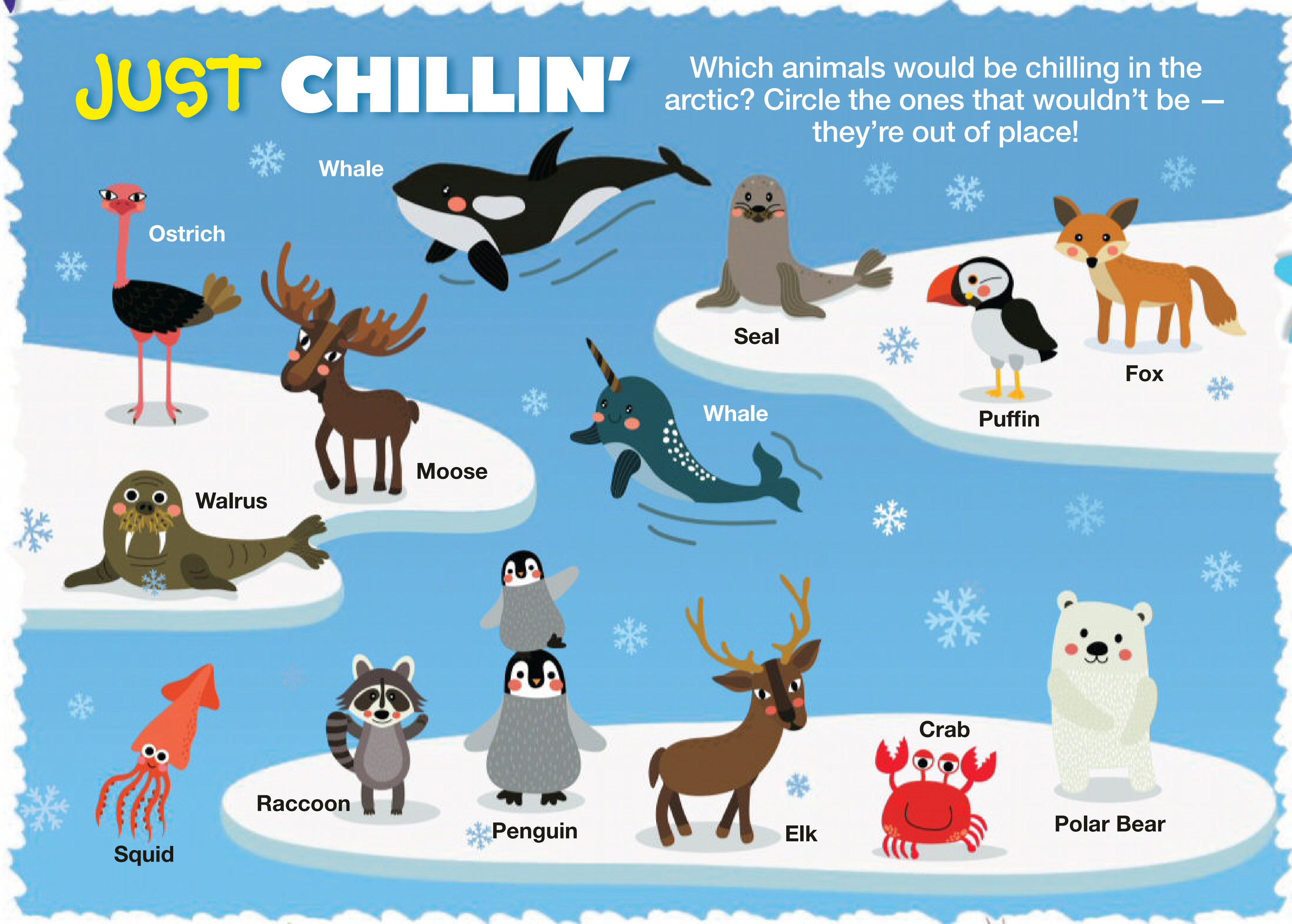
4 erisrbe ____

5 sunt ____

6 drib gesg ____

JUST CHILLIN'

Which animals would be chilling in the arctic? Circle the ones that wouldn't be — they're out of place!


Whale
Ostrich
Seal
Fox
Puffin
Whale
Moose
Walrus
Raccoon
Penguin
Elk
Crab
Polar Bear
Squid

REINDEER GAME

Mark whether each one of these statements is true or false!

1. In North America, reindeer are called caribou.
☐ True ☐ False

2. Only males grow antlers.
☐ True ☐ False

3. Reindeer are most commonly found in Australia.
☐ True ☐ False

4. They're herbivores, meaning they eat vegetables and plants.
☐ True ☐ False

5. Reindeer have clawed paws, like cats.
☐ True ☐ False

GENE J PUSKAR/AP/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); SHEILA FITZGERALD/SHUTTERSTOCK; KEITH HOMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK; CALIMEDIA/SHUTTERSTOCK; COLACAT/SHUTTERSTOCK; NATCHAPOHN/SHUTTERSTOCK (4); ELENA SCHWEITZER/SHUTTERSTOCK

18+

WHAT IS

AVAXHOME?

AVAXHOME -

the biggest Internet portal, providing you various content: brand new books, trending movies, fresh magazines, hot games, recent software, latest music releases.

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Brand new content
One site

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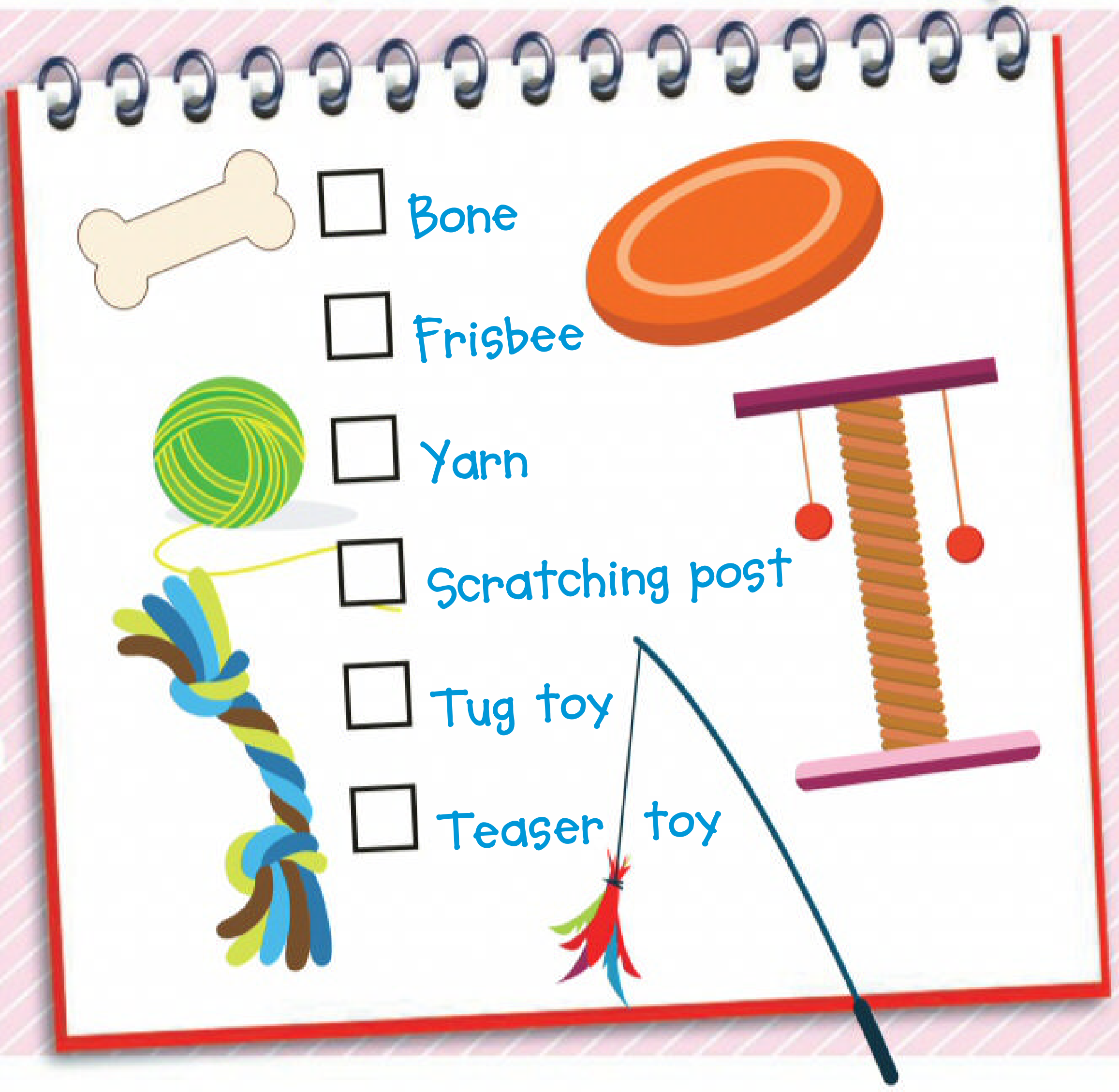
AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open https://avxlive.icu

PET PRESENTS

Put a checkmark next to all the presents a cat would ask for this holiday season!



☐ Bone

☐ Frisbee

☐ Yarn

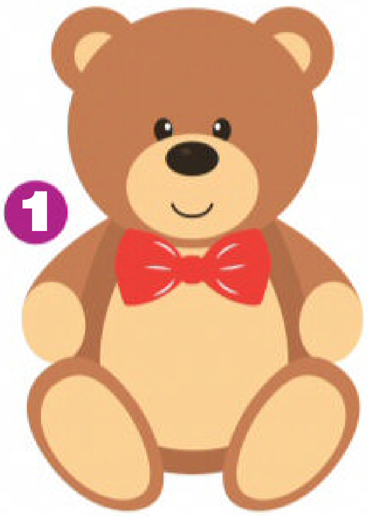
☐ Scratching post

☐ Tug toy

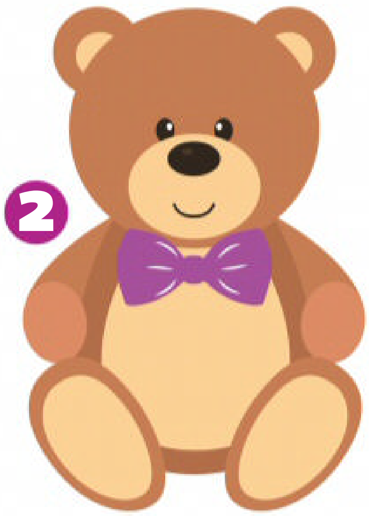
☐ Teaser toy

TEDDY TWINS

Find the matching teddy bears!



1



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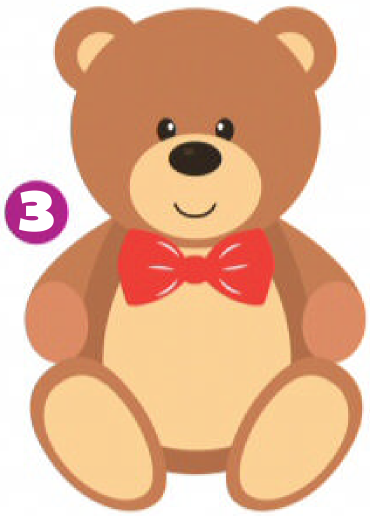
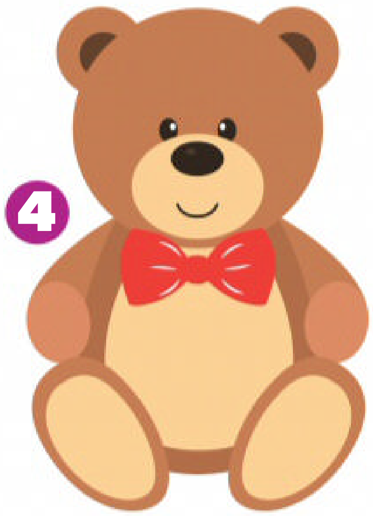


3



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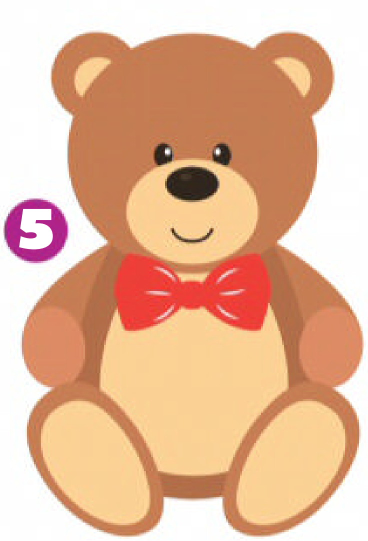

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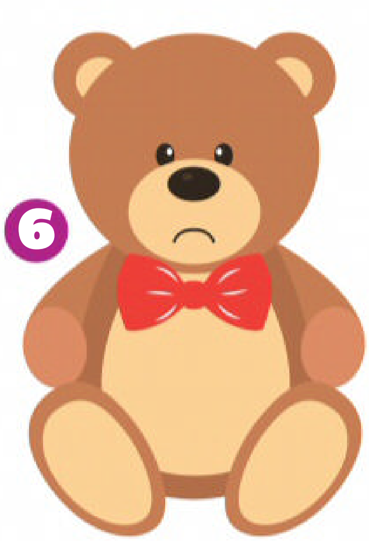

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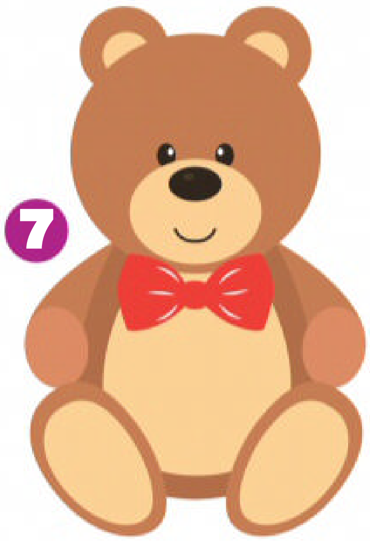

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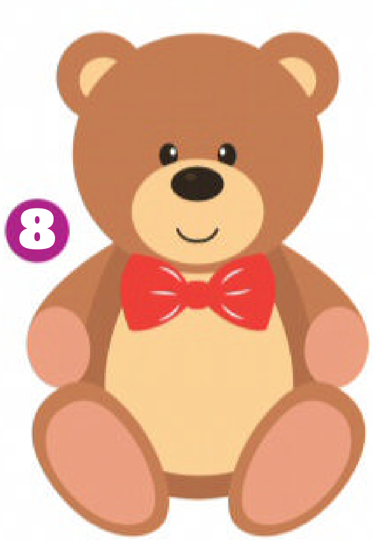
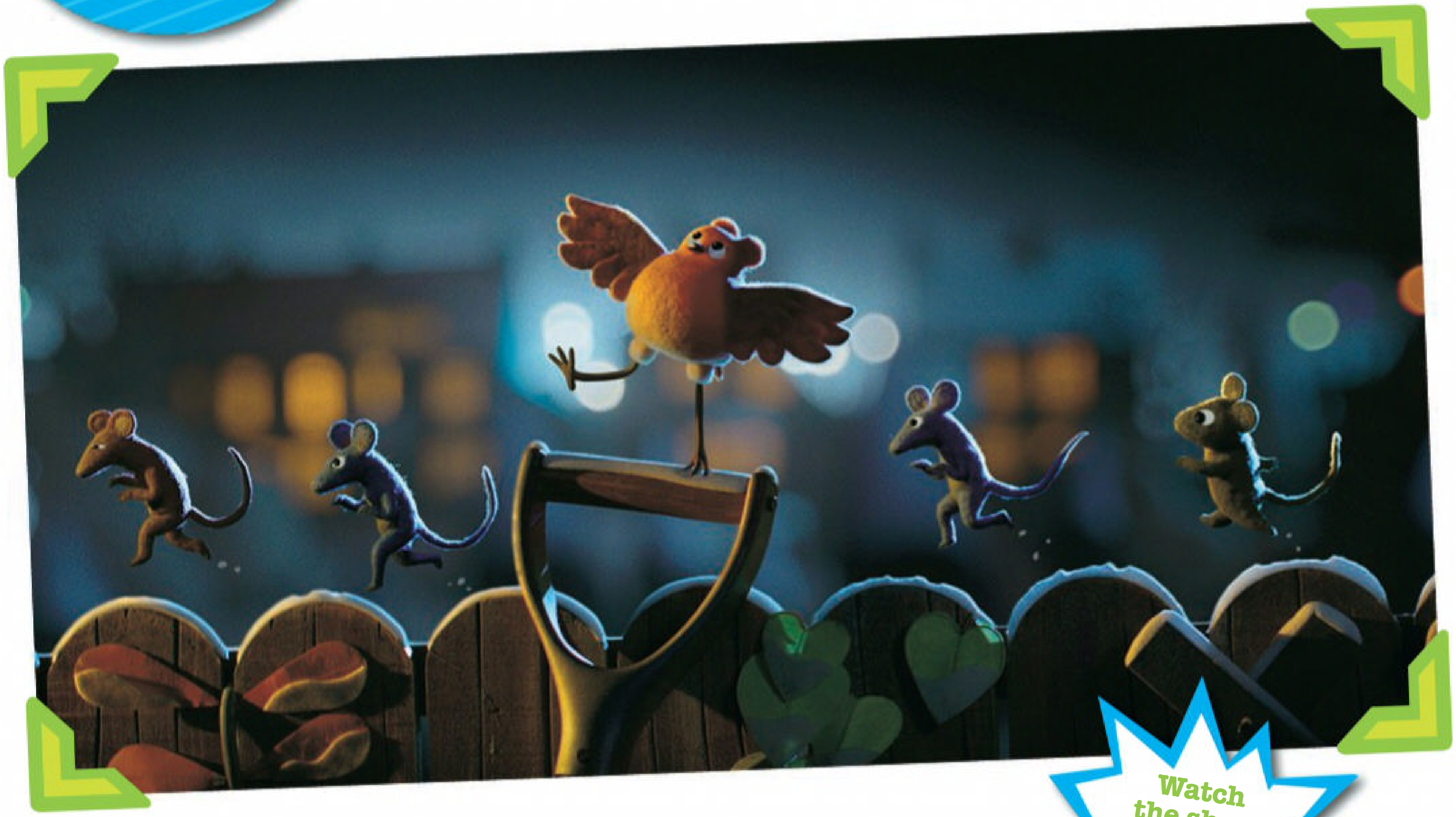


8

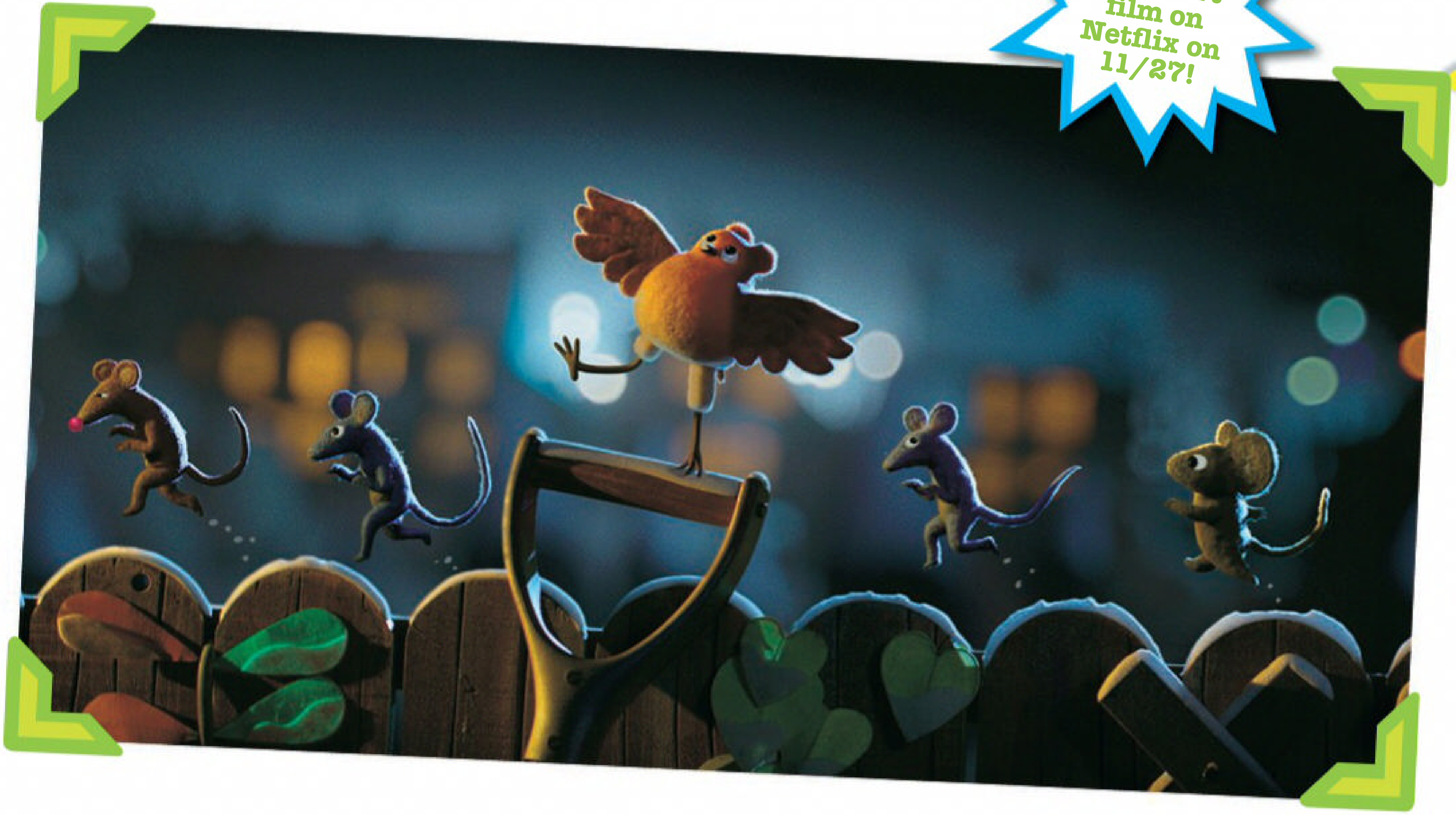
GUPPIC THE DUCK/SHUTTERSTOCK; SIMVOLIST/SHUTTERSTOCK; CARBOXYLASE/SHUTTERSTOCK; D-SIGN STUDIO 10/ SHUTTERSTOCK; JUNGLEOUTTHERE/SHUTTERSTOCK; JULIA JANUARY/SHUTTERSTOCK; NETFLIX (2)

SPOT the differences!

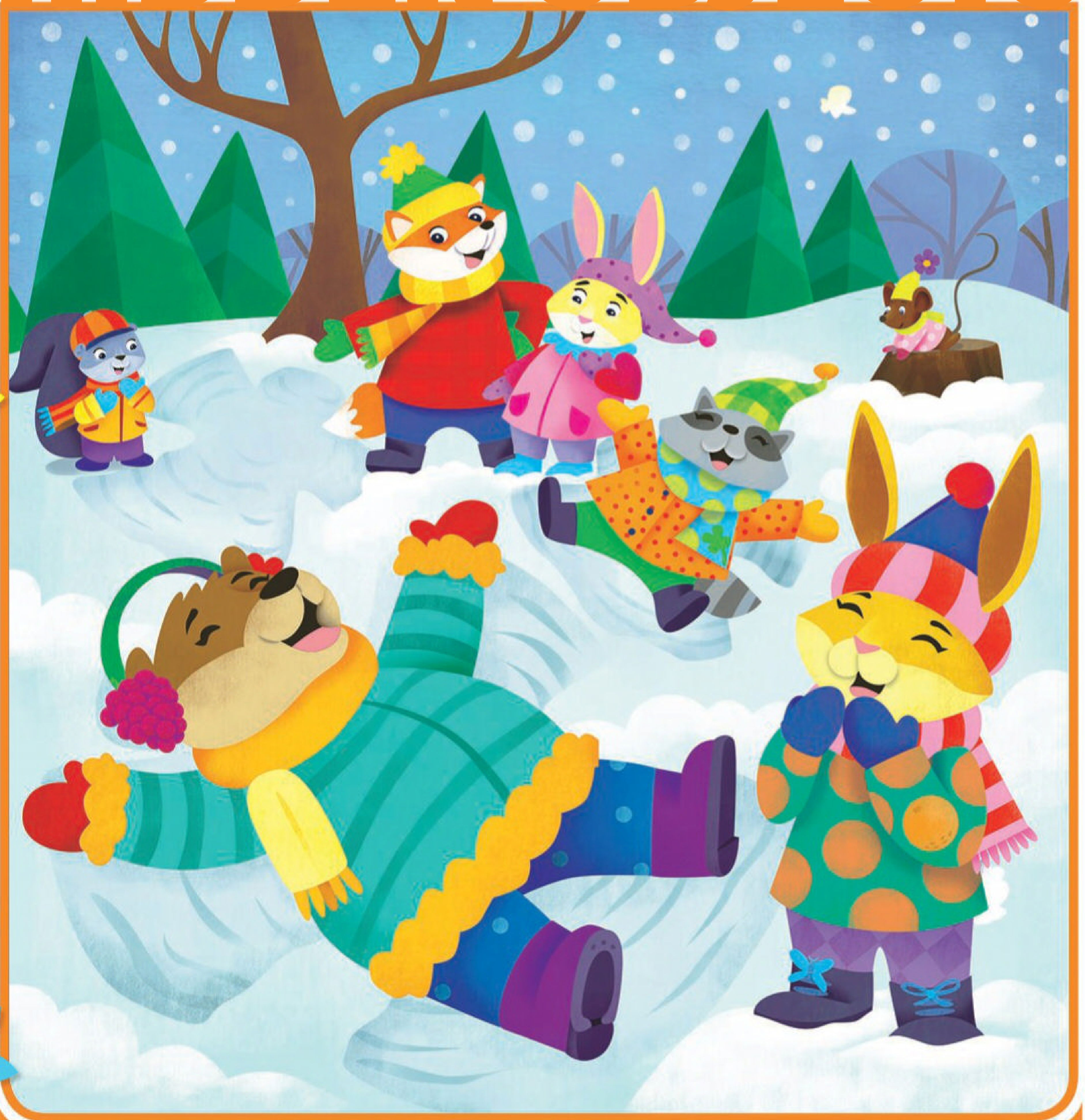
Can you find the 10 things that have changed in the second picture from *Robin Robin?*



Watch the short film on Netflix on 11/27!



FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS



LOOK CLOSELY AND SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT THE FOLLOWING:
raspberry, cherry, carrot, orange, popsicle, popcorn, flower, butterfly, heart, horseshoe, four-leaf clover, bell

ILLUSTRATION: ROBIN BOYER; JENNY STURM/SHUTTERSTOCK

HILARIOUS JOKES

You're the seal-iest person I know!

Where do cows go on the weekend?
To the moo-vies!

Why is a fish easy to weigh?
Because it has its own scales!

What time do ducks get up in the morning?
At the quack of dawn!

Why are cats scared of trees?
Because of their bark!

Why do fish swim in salt water?
Because pepper makes them sneeze!

How does a group of penguins make a tough decision?
Flipper coin!

Knock-knock time

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
KEN!
Ken who?
KEN YOU WALK THE DOG FOR ME?

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
HOWL!
Howl who?
HOWL I GET IN IF YOU DON'T OPEN THE DOOR?

KNOCK, KNOCK!
Who's there?
WHO!
Who who?
IS THERE AN OWL IN HERE?

ANSWERS

GUESS THE CEREAL MASCOT
Frosted Flakes: B, Trix: D, Corn Flakes: A, Honey Nut Cheerios: E, Cocoa Puffs: C

STUFF YOUR FACE!
1. Seeds
2. Insects
3. Grains
4. Berries
5. Nuts
6. Bird eggs

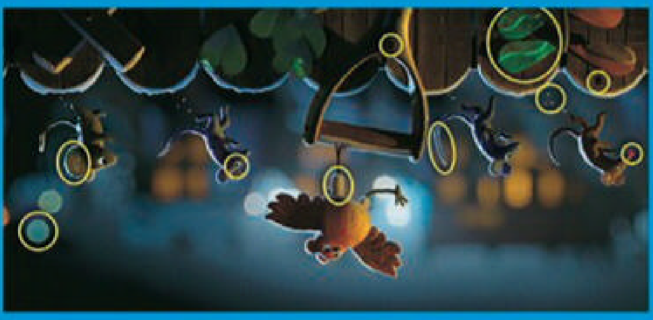
JUST CHILLIN'
Out of place: Ostrich, fox, squid, raccoon, crab

REINDEER GAMES
1. True
2. False
3. False
4. True
5. False

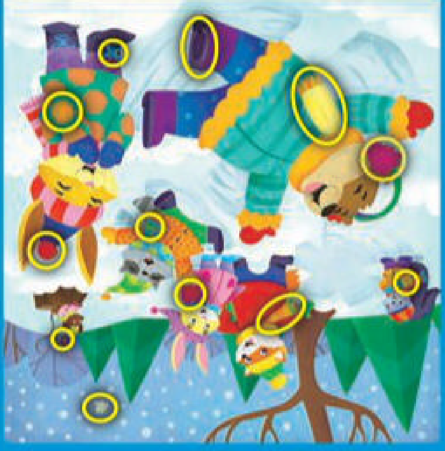
PET PRESENTS
Yarn, scratching post, teaser toy

TEDDY TWINS
Twins: 3 and 5

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

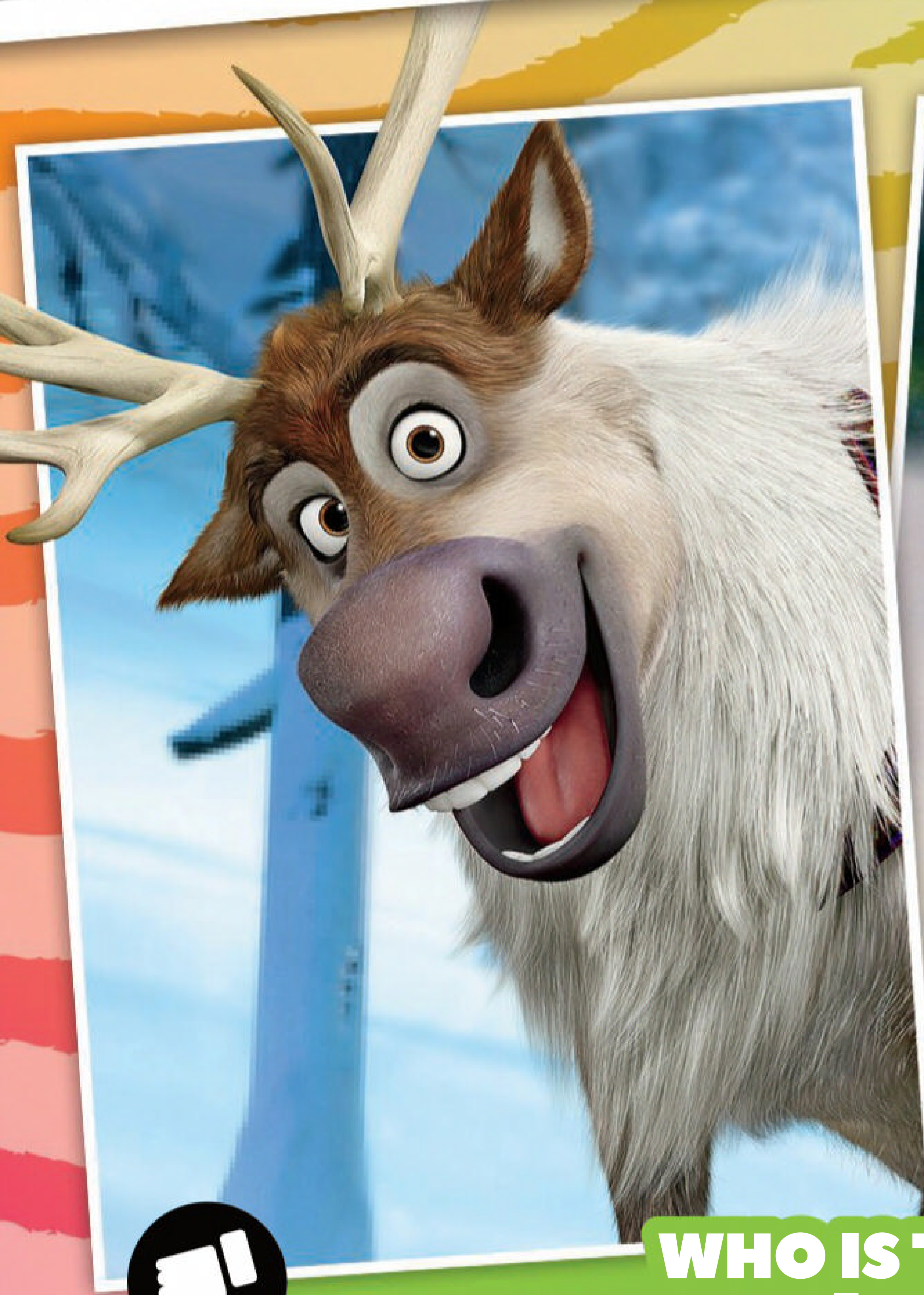


FIND THE HIDDEN OBJECTS



Animal FACE-OFF

The competition
was fierce, but
somebody had to win!



WHO IS THE best reindeer?

There's no denying that Sven is a great friend, and thanks to him, we know that reindeer are better than people, but, hello, Rudolph is magic — he has to win!

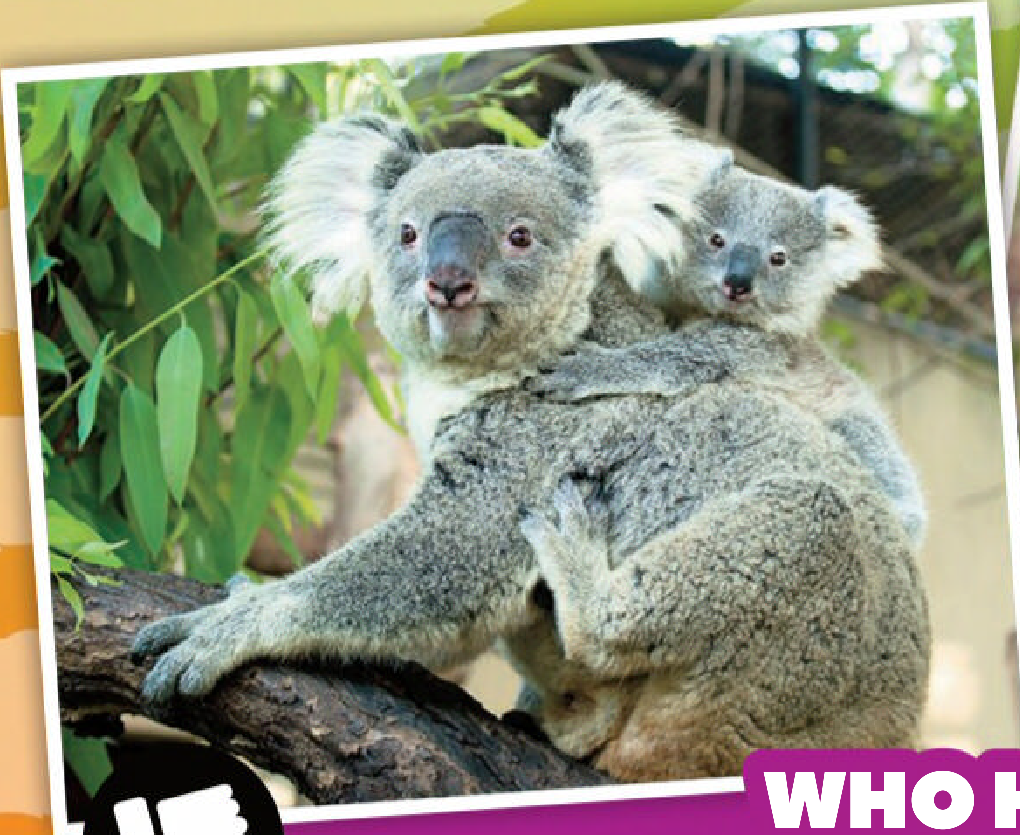
WHO IS HAVING THE brightest Christmas?

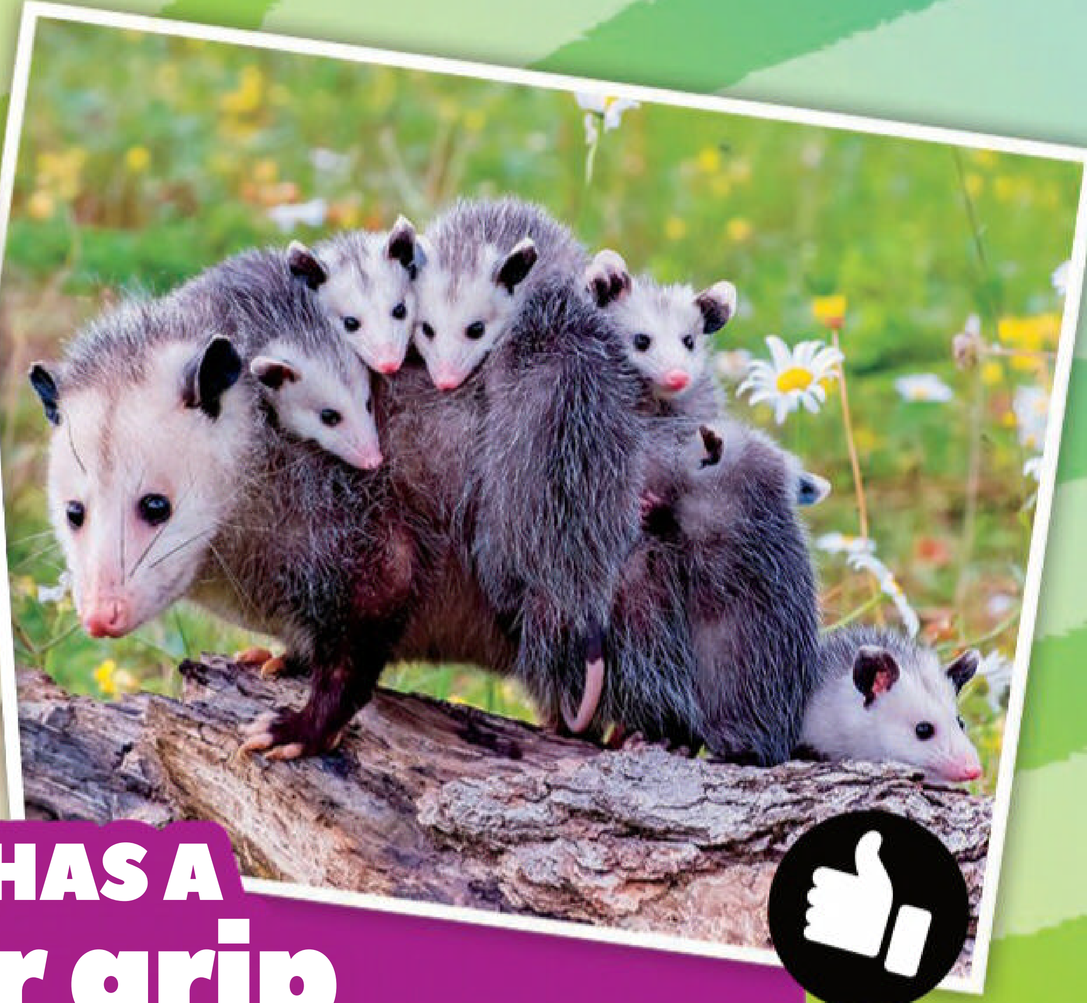
Both of these pets are getting into the holiday spirit, but the guinea pig is the clear winner. Just look at that little smile and tiny hat!

WHO HAS THE sweetest digs?

Imagine having a slide inside your house?! That's why even though we're loving the budgie's colorful decor, we have to give this one to the hamster!

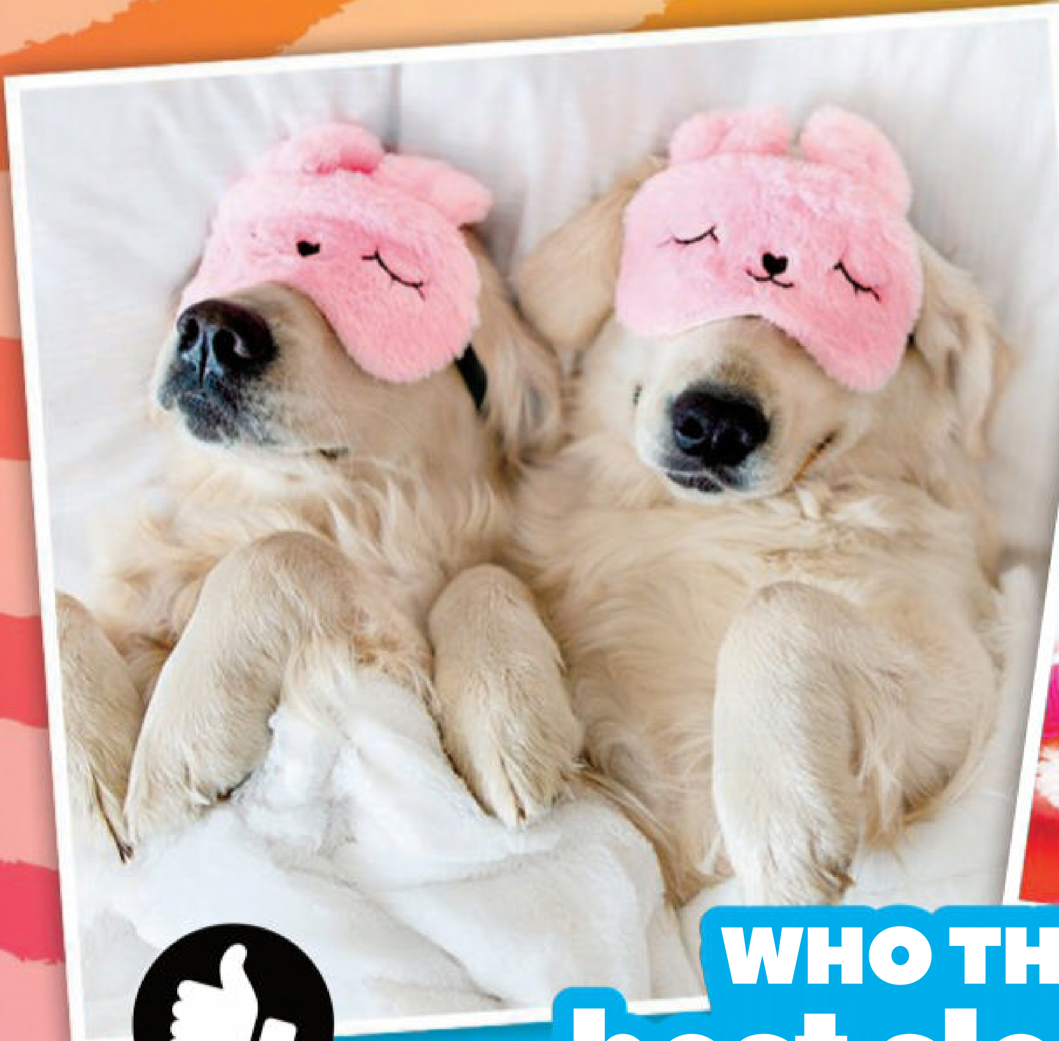
DISNEY; RANKIN/BASS PRODUCTIONS; RITA KOCHMARJOVA/SHUTTERSTOCK; KUZINA NATALI/ SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK; TRACY STARR/SHUTTERSTOCK

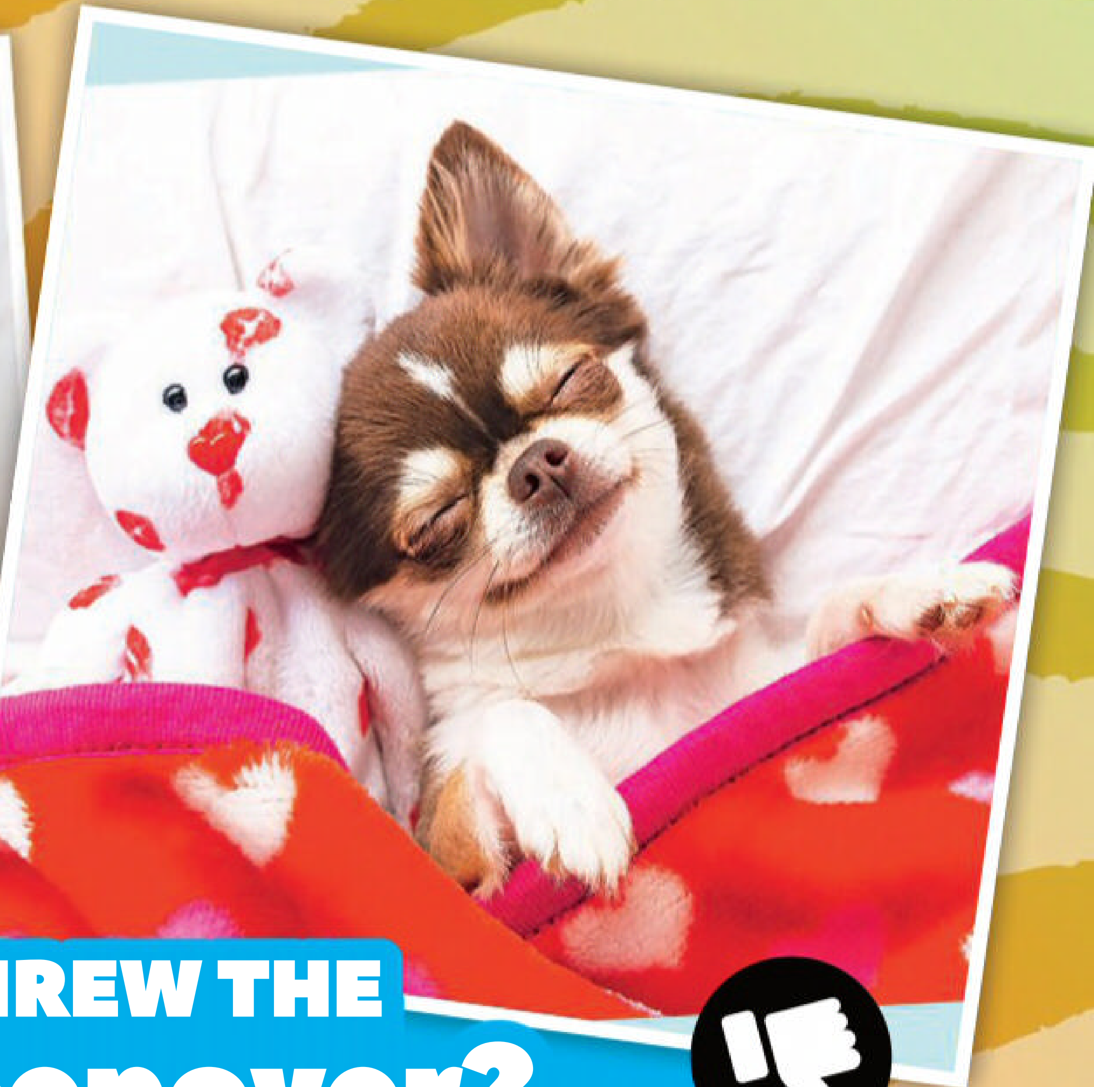




WHO HAS A better grip

The koala joey couldn't be happier getting a lift from its momma, but the possum joeys have to compete for their spot, so we give them (and their strong mom!) the win.





WHO THREW THE best sleepover?

The chihuahua looks so happy with its teddy bear, but everyone knows sleepovers are better with friends. That's why the golden retrievers win!

WHO HAS THE BEST rainbow colors?

Chameleons are known for their extraordinary colors, but the iridescent shine on the beetle is so cool that it comes out on top this round!

WHO HAS THE sweetest smile?

This was a tricky one because both animals look so very happy. The dog is victorious because he makes us want to play in the crunchy leaves with him!

SERGEI KAZAKOV/SHUTTERSTOCK; EVELYN D. HARRISON/SHUTTERSTOCK; OTS PHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK;
TITIYA CHUAICHAT/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK (2); CATHY KEIFER/SHUTTERSTOCK;
PRASIT BOONMA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Critter Q&A

Wondering about the wild and wonderful animal kingdom? You've come to the right place!

Do goldfish really have a three-second memory?

— PEYTON, 10, UT

Nope, that's a myth! Scientists aren't sure where or why this fishy rumor got started, because goldfish actually have quite impressive memories … and there are studies to prove it! The memory of a goldfish has been researched for decades, not because their memories are short, but because they're so long! Goldfish can remember things they learned years ago, especially when it comes to food. If you have a pet goldfish, you can test this yourself by placing their food on the same side of their tank every time you feed them. Before long, your goldfish will remember to go to that spot when they're hungry!

Where do zoo animals go at night?

— LIAM, 7, WV

It depends on the animal! Some of them stay put in their enclosure, just like you'd see during the day. Many head to a hidden indoor part of their enclosure where they can go to sleep. Smaller animals that are kept inside buildings have special lights that mimic daytime and nighttime. Nocturnal animals may be more active than they are when guests are around. As for the zookeepers, most of them head home at night, but some zoos have overnight keepers that'll make sure all of the animals are safe and taken care of.

Is it true that frogs give you warts?

— MACKENZIE, 9, RI

No, you can't get warts from holding a frog. Warts are caused by a virus called HPV and frogs don't carry that virus, so it'd be impossible for them to pass it along to a human. So, how did this myth get started? It's simple: Frogs have slimy, bumpy skin and people thought by touching them, the slime would pass along the bumps. While that definitely won't happen, it's best not to pick up a frog you spot in the wild!

GLINSKAJA OLGA/SHUTTERSTOCK; MACROVECTOR/SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK; SHUTTERSTOCK (2); BOGDAN SONJACHNYI/SHUTTERSTOCK; LANA SAMCORP/SHUTTERSTOCK; UV GROUP/SHUTTERSTOCK

Why does my cat lick her paws?

— DYLAN, 11, MN

Cats love to stay clean, and licking their paws is like you washing your hands! Paw licking is a form of grooming, but it doesn't stop at just cleaning their paws. Cats also lick other parts of their bodies, but they can't reach everywhere! For those hard-to-reach spots, cats will lick their paws, then wipe the area with their wet paws, using them almost like a washcloth. As long as your cat isn't licking her paws all day long (which could be a sign that her paw is injured or infected), then it's perfectly normal!

Is it safe to hand feed a wild animal?

— AUBREY, 7, CA

Definitely not! No matter the wildlife in your area, it's best not to offer them food with your hands. While it feels like you're doing something nice for the outdoor critters, it could actually put them in harm's way. Not all food is safe for them to eat. And relying on humans to feed them isn't realistic for wild animals. Not to mention, it puts your safety at risk! Wild animals are unpredictable and getting that close to them, especially with food involved, isn't safe. If you're an animal lover, try setting up a bird feeder — you can watch them eat nearby and keep everyone safe!

Do giraffes make noises?

— AVERY, 12, OH

It's funny you should ask, because, for years, experts believed that giraffes couldn't make sounds other than the occasional grunt. They thought that, although giraffes have voice boxes like we do, their long necks made it impossible for sound to travel all the way up and out of their mouths. But, researchers discovered that they were wrong! They learned that giraffes actually do make a sound, but only at night. The sound, a low hum, is so low that it's nearly impossible for humans to hear. Giraffes use it as a way to quietly communicate with one another!

Does my dog need to wear a coat in the winter?

— LAYLA, 10, NY

Not every dog needs a coat when it's cold outside! For the most part, large dogs and dogs with long hair don't need a coat because their bodies will keep them warm. Small dogs, senior dogs and long-haired dogs that have been given short haircuts could all benefit from a coat or sweater when it's really cold out. Plus, chances are, when you're preparing to go for a walk, your dog will give you signs they're too cold by shivering or refusing to go outside. Just remember that coats are for outside and should be removed once they're back in a warm home!

SEND US YOUR QUESTIONS!

Do you have a question about an animal? We'd love to answer it for you! Send your question to *Animal Tales*, Critter Q&A, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004 or email mail@animaltalesmag.com.

What's your PUPPY personality?

Find out the breed of dog that's just like you!

START

What's your favorite thing to play?

Board games

Video games

When do you do your homework?

As soon as I get home

After I have a snack and relax

The perfect gift for your bestie would be:

Matching friendship necklaces

A Squishmallow

Besides a dog, which pet would you like to have?

Cat

Rabbit

What sleepover theme sounds cooler?

Space explorer

Under the sea

The best kind of books are:

Relatable chapter books

Adventurous graphic novels

Have you ever pulled a prank on someone?

No way

I sure have

What role would you like in school?

Student of the month

Captain of a sports team

Which Disney show do you like better?

Sydney to the Max

Just Roll with It

YOU'RE BRAINY LIKE A BORDER COLLIE!

Border Collies are known as being the smartest dog breed. Like these intelligent pups, you love learning new things and you impress others with your greatness!

YOU'RE A LEADER LIKE A LABRADOR RETRIEVER!

Labs are kind dogs that are always ready to step in and lead the way. Sound familiar? You're a natural leader, too, and you're great at making new friends!

YOU'RE PLAYFUL LIKE A CORGI!

Corgis just want to have fun ... and so do you! This is one breed that knows how to have a good time. They're full of personality and are sure to make anyone around them laugh!

ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); ERMOLAEV ALEXANDER/SHUTTERSTOCK

ON SALE NOW!

Check out this cool mag!

SNOW MUCH FUN!
POPCORN SNOWMAN RECIPE
WINTER BOOT RECS
ICE SKATING TIPS
SNOW GLOBE CRAFT
girls' WORLD
Totally Created By You!
Claudia from The Baby-Sitters Club
QUIZ: WHO'S YOUR STYLE TWIN?
Find out what your jewelry box reveals about you!
Art Contest
YOUR MASTERPIECE COULD BE PRINTED IN THE MAGAZINE!
HOW TO HAVE YOUR BEST YEAR YET!
Secrets of Sulphur Springs star Kyliegh Curran tells you how to make the most of your 2022!

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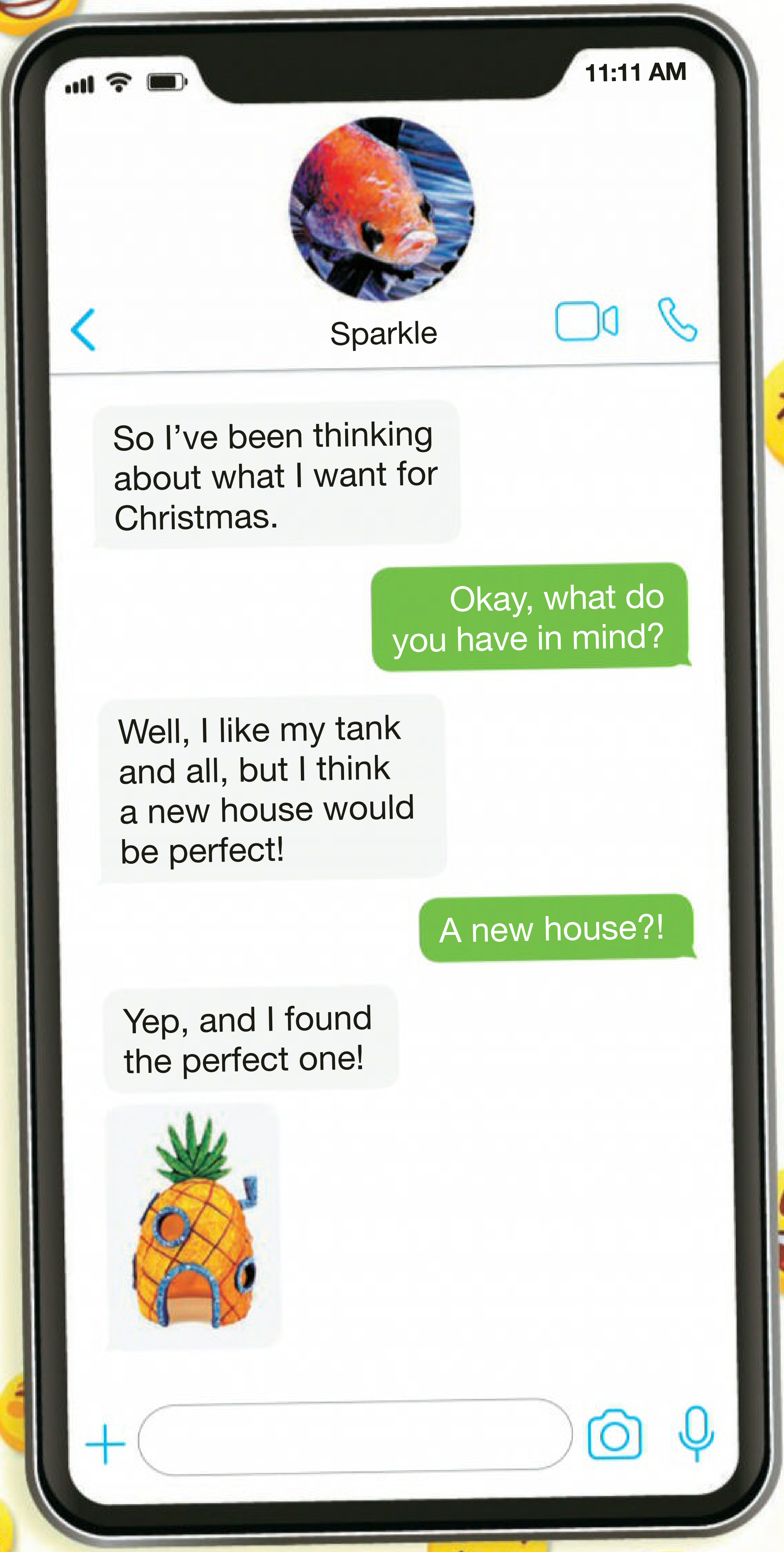
Creature Convos

IF PETS CO

LOL at what would happen if your furry friend could use a phone!



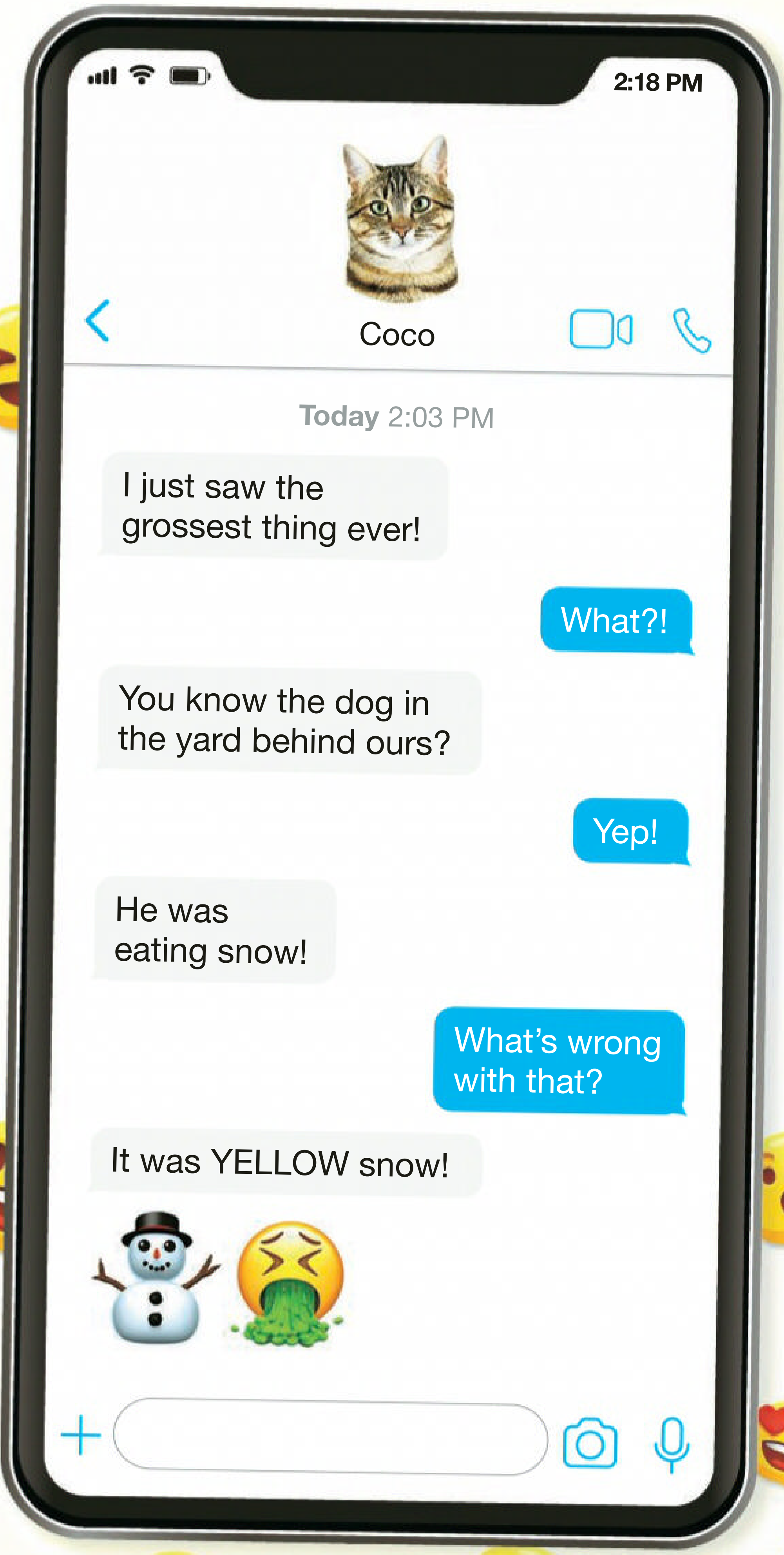
So I've been thinking about what I want for Christmas.

Okay, what do you have in mind?

Well, I like my tank and all, but I think a new house would be perfect!

A new house?!

Yep, and I found the perfect one!



I just saw the grossest thing ever!

What?!

You know the dog in the yard behind ours?

Yep!

He was eating snow!

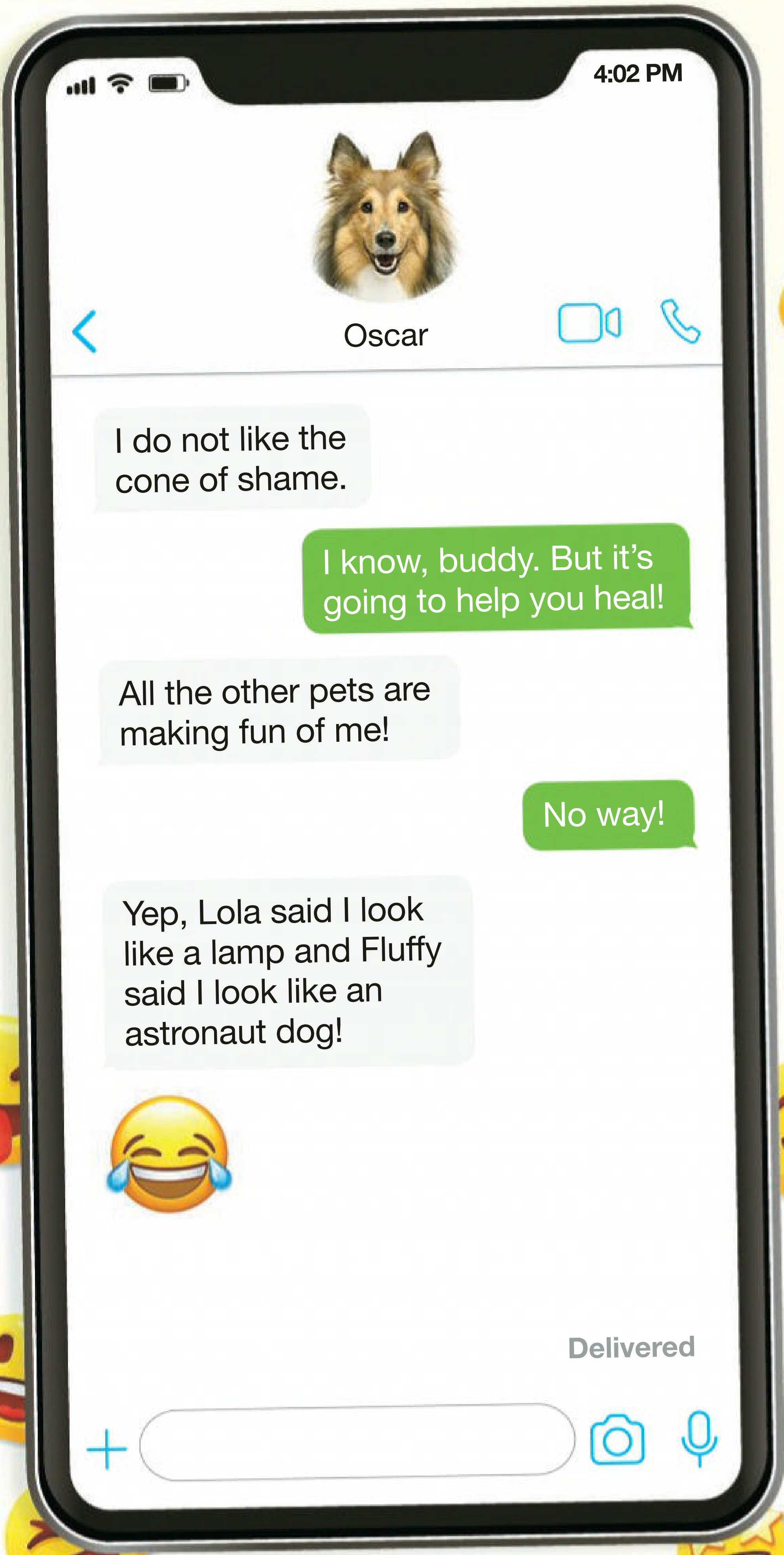
What's wrong with that?

It was YELLOW snow!

☃️ 🤮

HOANG TRUNG HON/SHUTTERSTOCK; 5 SECOND STUDIO/SHUTTERSTOCK; ERIC ISSELEE/SHUTTERSTOCK (2); APPLE (4)

ULD TEXT!



I do not like the cone of shame.

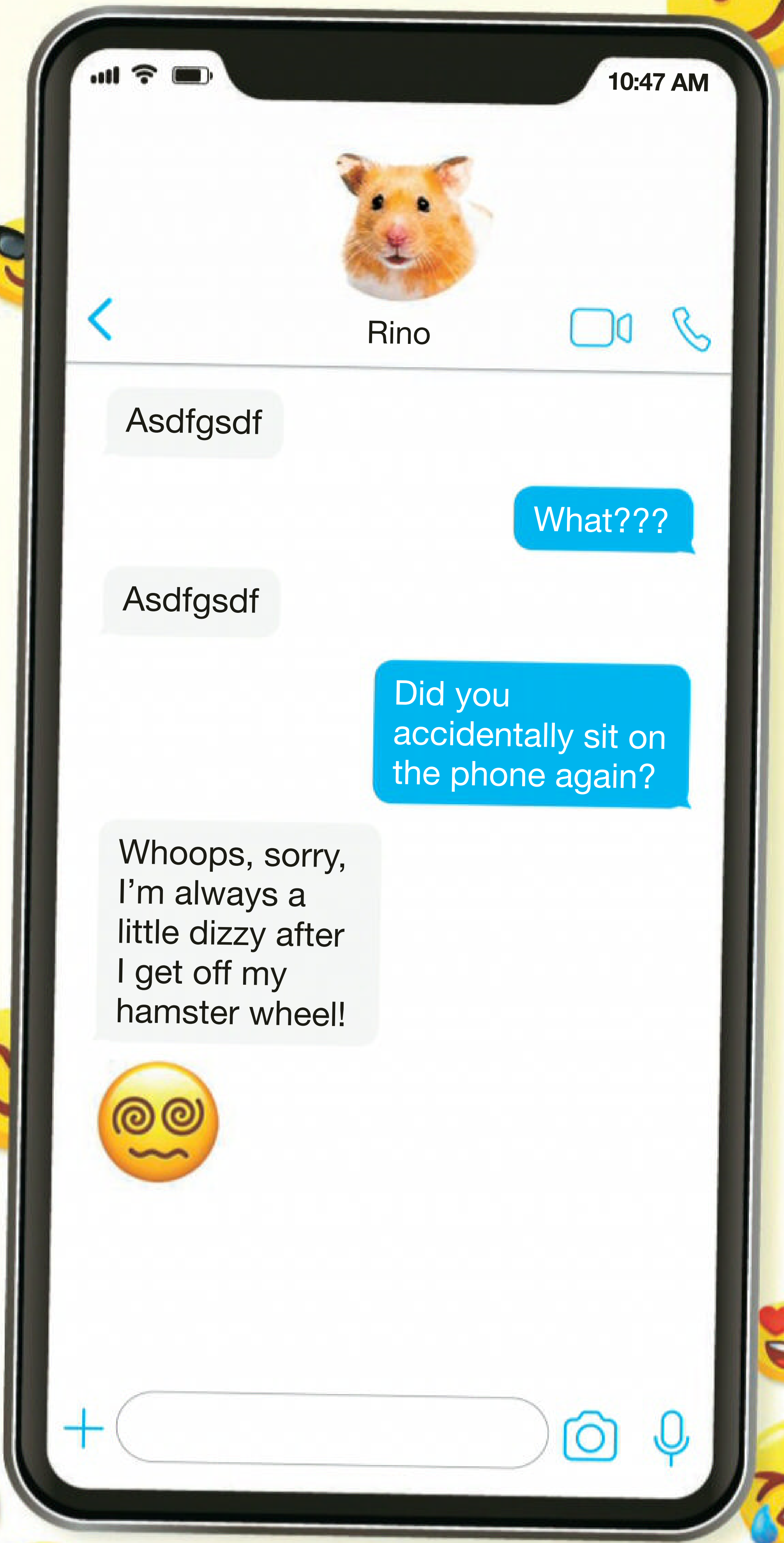
I know, buddy. But it's going to help you heal!

All the other pets are making fun of me!

No way!

Yep, Lola said I look like a lamp and Fluffy said I look like an astronaut dog!

😂



Asdfgsdf

What???

Asdfgsdf

Did you accidentally sit on the phone again?

Whoops, sorry, I'm always a little dizzy after I get off my hamster wheel!

😵‍💫

Your PICS

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SEND US YOUR PHOTO!

Send us a picture of your pet or a wild animal, and it could end up on this page! You can email it to us at mail@animaltalesmag.com, tag us on Instagram @animaltalesmag or send it to *Animal Tales*, Your Pics, 4 New York Plaza, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10004. Sorry, pics can't be returned.

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Pretzel #dwarfrabbit #bunnyhop

Olivia, 9, AZ FOLLOW •••

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Mrs. Meow #copycats #stuffedanimal

Elena, 9, and James, 7, KS FOLLOW •••

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Zeke #mypetisthebest #tastytreat

Steph, 11, NJ FOLLOW •••

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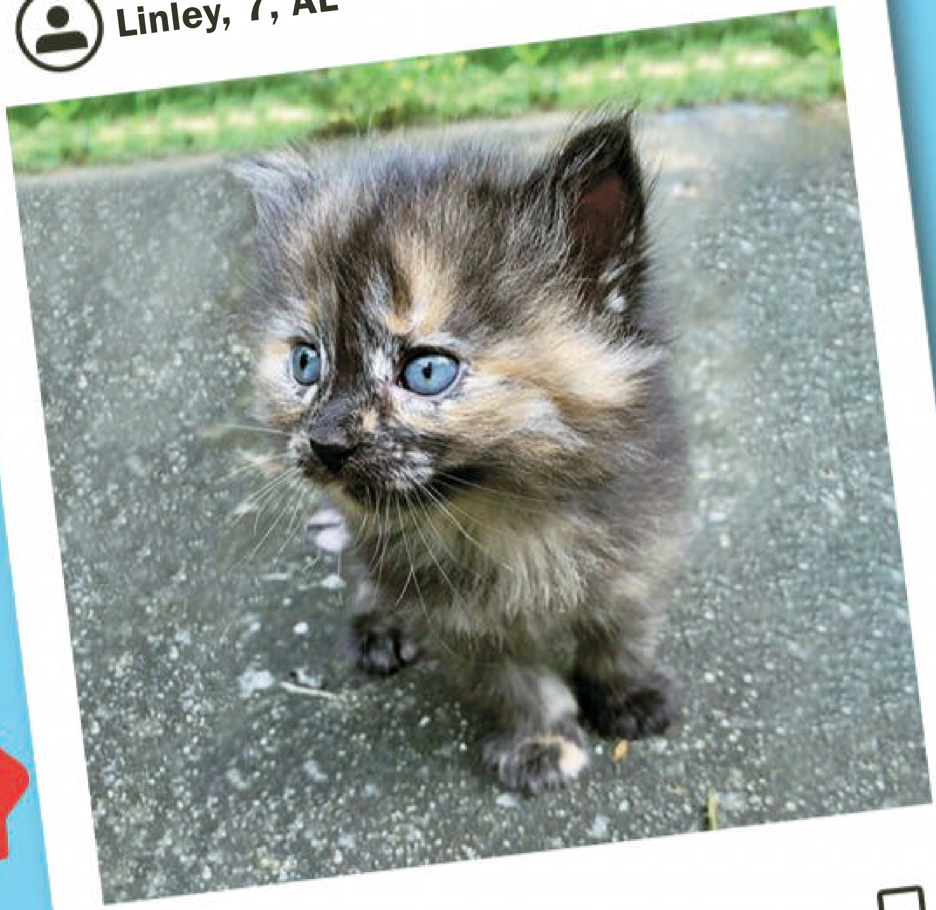
Mac **#macandcheese #tummyrubplease**

Linley, 7, AL FOLLOW •••



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